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MAZADA TOURS



In today's Business Supplement

- ★ The book-store market yearns for competition
- ★ Hong Kong's first post-colonial leader
- ★ What ever happened to capital-market reform?

Money

President Weizman: I can't sleep well at night

BATSHEVA TSUR

"I CAN'T sleep well at night," President Ezer Weizman declared yesterday, expressing concern over the situation in the country. But the president added that he did not foresee the likelihood of a war.

"I do not believe we are on the verge of war," he said. "Anyone who starts a war would have to be mad. In war, you may know where you start but you never know where it will end."

He said that he was sure that, despite Egypt's increased military potential, President Hosni Mubarak is not interested in war, nor are Israel's other neighbors. Weizman was speaking to reporters during a tour of Eilat yesterday morning.

"I don't recommend getting depressed," he said, "and I think we should keep up our good spirits although I understand the difficulty...Don't think that I sleep well all night."

Later, speaking before members of the Contractors' Association gathered in Jerusalem, Weizman called for pushing forward the peace talks.

"This government under this prime minister will have to take difficult and clear-cut decisions with regard to a final settlement. What was decided at Oslo was decided, and now we are obliged to carry it out," he said.

Noting that the "process which has paused has not stopped," Weizman said that it could move forward again. "I am sure Hebron will soon be resolved," he said, expressing the opinion that it should be approved by a majority in the Knesset rather than by a referendum.

Israeli accuses Spice Girls of ripping off her song

WHILE topping the pop charts across Europe, the Spice Girls hit "Say You'll Be There" became the focus of a controversy here yesterday.

The five-members of the all-girl group - seen in their videos clad in tight T-shirts and short miniskirts - have been accused of copying the song from Idit Shechtman, who released a practically identical song two years ago in Israel.

Shechtman, now 19 and serving in the IDF, recorded *Be Avtai* ("Come to me") at Track Productions recording studio in Tel Aviv, managed by David Levine, in 1995, but it went nowhere. Shechtman was therefore shocked when, tuned into MTV, she heard the Spice Girls repeating her words, lyrics and song.

"I was hurt, hurt very much," said Shechtman. "But I am also flattered," she admitted. She also complained that "my song wasn't famous, but mine is." She also was candid enough to acknowledge that this publicity will only do her good, though.

Shechtman's song, which she wrote, was copyrighted in Israel. The question the lawyers are tackling is whether this is internationally binding.

Her lawyer assumes that a tourist purchased the song here in 1995 and took it back to England, where it possibly was played in a few clubs, heard by



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, flanked by Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky (left) and Finance Minister Dan Meridor (right), addresses the Knesset's social caucus yesterday. (Ariel Jeruzolimski)

Alternative to cuts in child allowances could be announced today

EVELYN GORDON

THE government is preparing an alternative to the cuts in child allowances originally included in its 1997 budget proposal, and the change could be announced as early as today, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Knesset's social caucus yesterday.

The cuts in child allowances, together with the proposal to institute payments for doctors' visits and a steep hike in co-payments for medicines, are the three main sticking points in the budget for coalition MKs, who have repeatedly warned that the budget will never pass if these three items are not amended.

"You have raised the issue of child allowances," Netanyahu told caucus members. "I think there is awareness of this issue on our parts. We understand [your objections]. On this, we truly need to try to do something to solve the problem. I discussed a certain possibility with Finance Minister [Dan Meridor] this

morning, and we will finish our discussion tonight." Netanyahu also indicated that changes would be made on the health-related issues, though he did not say this explicitly. "I think these [child allowances and health] are two central issues," he said.

Most of Netanyahu's address was devoted to trying to persuade the MKs of the importance of the budget cuts.

"The entire world is now looking at this house, at this place, at this time, and it wants to know one thing: Will they cut or won't they? Will they behave like a responsible government... or will they continue to party, when they have no money to pay for the festivities?" he said.

If the budget is not cut, the result will be an

immediate lowering of Israel's credit rating, an astronomical rise in the interest rates it must pay to borrow money abroad, a rise in inflation, and a sharp drop in foreign investment, with a consequent rise in unemployment, he said.

"With respect to both unemployment and inflation, the ones who will pay the price are those same poor whom you are justly trying to represent," Netanyahu said. "Without a cut, the social price will be very heavy. Therefore, the cut is necessary first of all to protect the poor... There is no argument over the fact that the cut is vital to secure our future."

Netanyahu also stressed that the budget includes measures aimed specifically at helping the underprivileged, such as the institution of small-group tutoring for weaker pupils, and yesterday's decision on new investment incentives for companies in development towns, including funds for training workers.

Ne'eman indicted

RAINE MARCUS

FORMER justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, who resigned from his post in August, was indicted in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday for disrupting a police investigation and submitting a false declaration.

On Ne'eman's appointment as justice minister on June 18, 1996, a petition was filed with the High Court of Justice protesting the appointment and accusing Ne'eman of suborning a witness, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair urged

police to launch an investigation into Ne'eman's activities. The first charge Ne'eman was indicted for relates to an allegedly false statement he gave to the High Court.

The second charge accuses him of disrupting an investigation by denying having any connection with the subjects in the case.

According to the indictment, he deliberately lied and gave false statements to conceal his connection to all parties involved.

Peres: PM, GSS in crisis

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR Party leader MK Shimon Peres said yesterday that in all his days in government in the past decades he could not remember such a crisis between the government and the intelligence community as currently exists.

Peres said that the prime minister holds internal discussions with the security apparatus leaders, but he makes the decisions and bears responsibility. "I've never come across a prime minister who tried to shift the blame onto his advisers, or a prime minister or defense minister [who] leaks confidential details of internal discussions to the press," he said.

Peres added that not only did Netanyahu attribute quotes to certain heads of the security apparatus, but he also quoted them inaccurately, in order to create the impression that they said something they did not.

He pointed out that what Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did in GSS head Ami Ayalon's case had put the security heads in an impossible situation.

"What he did constitutes a threat to all those who have confidential debates with him. They will hesitate before they speak their mind the next time. What the prime minister did is a guarantee of wrecking any kind of staff work," Peres stated. (Story, Page 2)

DANIEL J. CHALFEN

the British group, and subsequently copied.



Idit Shechtman (Reuters)

Shechtman said she believes that it "is rare, very rare, for the same song with the same words to be written in two different places in the world."

"The Spice Girls, however, have a reputation for being tough girls who stand up for themselves."

"Say you'll be there" is a video that shows just that. The girls are dressed like cartoon superheroes doing Kung Fu style moves.

The group shot to fame with their hit single "Wannabe," which topped the charts across Europe earlier this year.

Shechtman's intentions may not have been the same, but her words and music, which appear to superimpose on to the Spice Girls single, are.

Shechtman, who is to finish her army service in several months, said she hopes to become a professional singer.

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Peres: I have no intention of joining gov't

Labor on the offensive to shorten Netanyahu term

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres said yesterday that Labor has no intention of joining Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government in view of its resounding failures.

At the same time, Labor's leadership is intensifying its challenge against Netanyahu, in an effort to shorten his term.

At a press conference summing up the government's first six months, Labor's leadership announced an offensive against the government, among other means, by getting the public out onto the streets in protest against its shortcomings.

In what appeared to be an about turn, Peres said "it is clear as the midday sun that we cannot enter the government in this situation and in the way it is presently run. I'm not looking for ways to join the government. I'm looking for ways to stop the unprecedented deterioration, and we are running out of time."

MK Haim Ramon said "Netanyahu is dangerous to Israel. He has become a security liability and his days in government must be cut short in any way possible. Only one thing can effect that - public opinion. Labor must conduct a relentless battle to show the government's shortcomings."

"Instead of bringing secure peace, as he promised, Netanyahu is securing failure. Never has a prime minister caused in such a short time such grave damages in so many domains," Ramon said.

"Likud ministers and members of the coalition factions confide in private conversations

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

that they are as concerned for the country's future as we are."

He noted the coalition partners are receptive to public opinion and their voters, and the latter will ultimately pressure them to stop this situation.

"Today it's difficult to get 200,000 people into the streets, but we are sounding all the alarm bells and hope the public awakens before the catastrophe, rather than afterwards."

Labor secretary-general MK Nissim Zivili said the government's six-month balance sheet is an intolerable distance between what we know to be the reality and the complacency of the prime minister, who is floating somewhere else."

Ben-Ami said "Israel is weak with Netanyahu because its security, its international relations, and its economy are damaged. You cannot build an economy and grow by drastically harming the weaker classes and middle income earners."

Zivili said the government's policy will be so damaging to so many aspects of people's lives that they will come out to the streets in protest.

MK Professor Shlomo Ben-Ami said Israel has never experienced such a leadership crisis and credibility gap between the public and its prime minister.

He spoke of the "wave of pessimism rising in the country

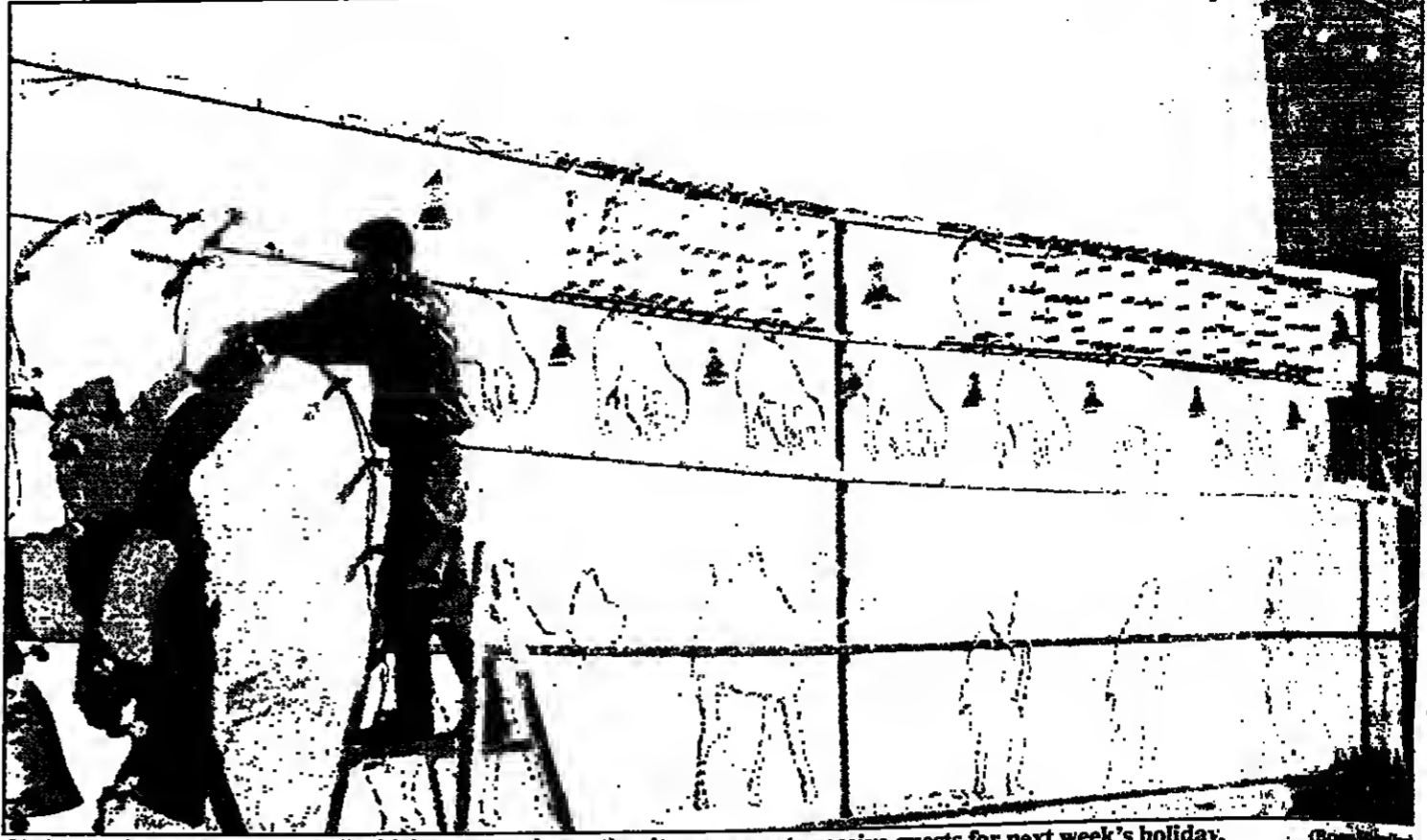
from one end to the other. There is fury and frustration in the development towns, a feeling of betrayal among Netanyahu's supporters."

Ben-Ami compared Netanyahu to "a ticking bomb heading towards a national disaster. He cannot make decisions, and when he does, it either causes an explosion, as in the tunnel affair, or he caves in. It's important the public realizes the breakdown in his functioning. In the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee meetings there is an intolerable distance between what we know to be the reality and the complacency of the prime minister, who is floating somewhere else."

Ben-Ami said "Israel is weak with Netanyahu because its security, its international relations, and its economy are damaged. You cannot build an economy and grow by drastically harming the weaker classes and middle income earners."

3 die on roads

THREE people were killed and 91 injured in 75 accidents on the nation's roads yesterday. Stella Yaskovitz, 42, of Tel Aviv, was killed and seven people injured in Elit when a jeep of Israeli tourists swerved onto a sidewalk and flipped over. A pedestrian was killed yesterday afternoon while trying to cross the Geva Highway. An eight-year-old boy was slightly injured yesterday morning in a hit-and-run accident.



Christmas decorations go up in Bethlehem yesterday as the city prepares to receive guests for next week's holiday.

Bethlehem beset by problems, but full of Christmas spirit

HAIM SHAPIRO

AS Christmas rolls around, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij is beset by problems: Problems concerning the relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, of which he is the tourism minister, and problems of his own town. But, he insists that the problems won't spoil the holiday atmosphere.

"The people are happy and smiling," Freij said yesterday, following a visit by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav.

Freij said that the people of the town, which annually commands the attention of the world on December 24, were encouraged by the peace process and by Katsav's visit. He stressed that Bethlehem was safe for foreign tourists and Israelis alike. Noting that Katsav had come with a large entourage of bodyguards and security personnel, the Bethlehem mayor insisted that the Tourism Minister could have left them at home.

"Believe me, if he had come without the security people he would have been just as safe," Freij said.

In the town, workmen were yesterday putting up colored lights and decorations in Manger Square in preparation for the holiday, they will accompany the strings of Palestinian flags fluttering over the same space.

Local businesspeople were unhappy about the economic situation, which has come about to a large extent because of the extended closure which has stopped Bethlehemites from working in Jerusalem. "Business is 50:50. The closure isn't good for Palestinians or the Israelis," said Farouk Alfawi, owner of a restaurant off Manger Square.

At a press conference with Katsav, Freij noted that unemployment in the town now stands at 40 percent. But he was careful to differentiate between tourism and politics. "Tourism to the Holy Land is a blessing. It is of mutual benefit to the Palestinians and the Israelis and we won't let politics interfere," he said.

Katsav, who said that his visit was intended to express the good will of the Israeli authorities, added that the tourist who comes to this part of the world is not interested in politics. He also stressed that visitors enjoyed personal security.

"I would say that it is safer to be in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or Bethlehem than it is to be in New York," Katsav said.

Freij said he had not brought up the issue of a 12-meter-high Christmas tree sent from Finland to Bethlehem.

Shahak: Stop discussing cause of Western Wall Tunnel riots

LIAT COLLINS

IDF Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak made a plea yesterday to the press: Stop focusing on the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit.

In a briefing with parliamentary reporters following a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shahak said the story "had been blown out of all proportion."

On Monday, the Knesset dealt intensively with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement that the security establishment had encouraged him to open the tunnel.

"The political echelons, to the best of my knowledge, did not try to put the responsibility on the military," Shahak said. "I understand that it's a cute news story but no good can come out of it, not to the state and not to anyone."

General Security Service head Ami Ayalon later told parliamentary reporters that he had had no

intention of resigning and that he had no problem continuing to work with the prime minister. He joked that he did not have time to read the newspaper stories on the affair and therefore had nothing to add.

MK Ori Orr (Labor), like Shahak, called on the committee to be satisfied with the statements by Netanyahu and Ayalon and not to hold additional inquiries into the decision to open the tunnel exit.

"We should let the GSS get on with the main struggle - against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad - and [we] should overcome our political urges to attack the prime minister, in the hope of building a system of trust between him and the head of the GSS," Orr said. He said mutual trust between the two is the basis

of preserving national security.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid was the only committee member present who objected to Orr's suggestion to drop the topic of the tunnel exit from the committee's agenda.

"It was the prime minister who re-raised the issue. We have no argument with the GSS head but we do have with the premier because the decision to open the tunnel exit caused the deaths of at least 100 people, Israelis and Palestinians, and we cannot just ignore the deaths of 100 people."

Elsewhere in the Knesset, State Control Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said he would recommend that the committee make public the minutes of the meeting it held with the heads of the security establishment on the tunnel exit opening "to prove that the prime minister is spreading distorted information." He accused the prime minister of exploiting Ayalon for political purposes.

'We never lost hope'

DAVID RUDGE AND BATSHEVA TSUR

CPL. Assaf Ben-Or, 21, was buried in the military section of Tzur Shalom cemetery in Kiryat Bialik yesterday, after succumbing to the critical wounds he suffered in the Beit Lid suicide bomb attack nearly two years ago.

Throughout that period his family spent every day at his bedside, hoping and praying that he would regain consciousness.

"It has been a very, very difficult period, but at least there was hope," Assaf's father Emmanuel Ben-Or said at their home in Kiryat Bialik a few hours before the funeral.

"For as long as nothing else happened, we always had hope. This is what kept us going, despite all the emotional heartache," said Ben-Or.

"We were at his bedside every day, myself and my wife, or our children and other members of the family, as well as friends, while he was hospitalized at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, in Jerusalem, then at Beit Levinstein and later when he was brought to Horev medical center in Haifa."

His death on Monday brought back memories of the last time they had seen him fit and well as he and his twin sister Noa left home to go to their respective

army bases - Noa to Tel Aviv and Assaf to join his unit in the territories on January 22, 1995.

Noa had tried to persuade him to go with her all the way to Tel Aviv, but he insisted on disembarking from the train at Netanya, from where he made his way to Beit Lid, en route to his unit.

"Noa said at the time that the minute Assaf got off the train she started to cry for no apparent reason. They were twins and it is difficult to understand the very close relationship between twins. It's very possible she felt something. It was certainly a moment of sensitivity," said Ben-Or.

Assaf was in the restaurant of the Soldiers Welfare Association by the Beit Lid junction when the first suicide bomber struck. He immediately raced to the aid of the wounded when the second explosion rocked the area.

The young soldier, who served in the combat engineers unit, was seriously wounded in the head and other parts of his body in the second blast.

He was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital, where after eight days his condition worsened and he lapsed into a coma and never regained consciousness.

"He was never alone for a minute. There was always somebody with him," said Ben-Or. "We talked to him and tried to get him to speak. We also used sign language."

"We maintain that in the past few months he did respond, by hand pressure or eye signals. We always had hope, but now he's gone," said Ben-Or.

Assaf is survived by his parents, Emmanuel and Ziva; his twin sister Noa, and brothers, Roi, and Zvika.

IAF seeks glide bomb for pinpoint strike

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

ISRAEL intends to be the first non-US customer to acquire the Joint Stand-Off Weapon (JSOW), a precision glide bomb that can revolutionize air tactics.

The deal was discussed during

OC Air Force Maj. Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliah's visit to Washington last week. Defense News reported in its latest issue.

The JSOW was jointly developed by the US Navy and Air Force and is scheduled to enter

low-rate production early next year.

The JSOW is a platform with fold-out wings that can glide up to 60 kilometers after it is dropped by an aircraft. It is designed to hold various weapons including anti-personnel bomblets and more deadly bombs capable of taking out radar installations and armored vehicles. More advanced versions will enable a pilot to drop one over a tank formation and move on to other targets.

"It's not a strategic weapon. It is not going to change the outcome of a war. But it would give capability of one aircraft to attack a various number of targets," said a source familiar with the weapon system. "It also allows the aircraft to avoid flying directly over a target, thus reducing the risk to it and the pilot. It helps the air force to have multiple targets with one plane."

Ben-Eliah also expressed desire for other, cheaper precision weapons like the Joint Direct Attack Munition, a laser-guided kit attached to bombs which allow them to be released from great heights with deadly accuracy.

Hebron students protest

JON IMMANUEL

STUDENTS took to the streets for the fifth day yesterday to protest the continued closure of Hebron University, conducting an improbable class in probability theory on the sidewalk of an urban highway surrounded by soldiers and police.

The IDF declared the quiet street outside the university a closed military zone, compelling the students to walk down to the busier intersection, the main road to Beersheba, where their protest briefly blocked traffic and attracted public attention.

They carried a few cardboard posters in Hebrew, English and Arabic calling for "the release of imprisoned books."

When some of the 150 students resisted the move, soldiers grabbed two and tried to push them into military jeeps. Other students and administrative staff intervened when the proceedings threatened to become more violent. The soldiers said they only demanded obedience to their orders and the administrators guaranteed the good behavior of the students. The arrested young men were then released and the tension among

the soldiers gave way to relaxed smiles.

University spokesman Nabil Abu Zneid said he could not understand why the army preferred that the students protest on a main thoroughfare where they could attract more public attention and increase the risk of violence.

"The Israeli army is on one side and the whole population is on the other side. I think it is a stupid mistake," he said.

The local IDF officer had received orders from a more senior officer outside the area who wanted the protesters away from the campus, which he assumed generated passions. The local officer explained, "This is closed, but we are not against freedom of speech. They can protest just like people in Tel Aviv."

About 30 students, of the 1,600 who attend the university, sat on the sidewalk as statisticians Dr. Nabil Kokali and Dr. Akram Tamimi scrawled equations on a blackboard.

No one could figure the probability of the university reopening soon.

Druse Syria sympathizers attack Israeli compatriots

LIAT COLLINS

CHIEF of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that for the first time, Golan Druse with Syrian sympathies are attacking Druse who hold Israeli identity cards or otherwise identify with Israel.

"In recent months, we have seen an increasing phenomenon of attacks on Druse Israeli resi-

dents. Several incidents have been recorded of attacks on businesses belonging to Druse who have Israeli identity cards. I see this as a dangerous phenomenon, mainly because in the past, despite internal divisions among the Druse relating to Israel, they have not harmed one another,"

Sbahak said, according to an official briefing. "The phenomenon stems from Syrian sympathizers in the Druse villages," he said.

He announced that the closure had been lifted yesterday from Ramallah. He also said the yeshiva had returned to the Joseph's Tomb area in Nablus where the IDF is examining its deployment.

CALLING ALL YOU HANDICRAFTERS

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at the Ramana Sports Center, next to Metro West High School.

If you create top quality handicrafts and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Beverlee Black, Director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, Tel. 02-623-3986.

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CORRECTION

NO representatives from the Slovakian Embassy visited the protest tent of striking Israeli Arab council heads, contrary to our December 12 report.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street, Dan Kuttler will speak on "My Olympic Experience."

On the shloshim of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother

SAM FRIDE 57,

We will gather for the unveiling on Friday, December 20, 1996 (10 Teveth) at 12 noon at the Herzliya Cemetery

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Advertisement for a product, possibly related to fertility or health, with text like "Compromise over mom's ic" and "New product eliminate uterin".

Labor court orders talks after Haifa Chemicals riot

A TENSE quiet reigned at the strike-bound Haifa Chemicals plant last night following riots late on Monday in which 12 people - eight of them workers - were injured.

Disturbances continued yesterday morning when angry workers, who charged that management had hired security guards to beat them into submission, spotted two senior officials trying to enter the plant in the bayside industrial zone.

They surrounded the two, accusing them of being responsible for the "brutal beating" of their colleagues the night before. The officials managed to flee in a taxi to another part of the plant and were later escorted away from the area by police.

During those disturbances, the tire of a police car sent to the scene was slashed and two company cars parked outside the plant's offices were overturned.

A semblance of calm was restored following the intervention of Baruch Zaltz, chairman of the Histadrut's Haifa branch who visited the site yesterday accompanied by Histadrut head Amir Peretz.

Peretz promised the workers that the Histadrut would continue to support them in their legitimate struggle to prevent massive firings and a new collective labor agreement.

Zaltz pledged that the Histadrut would take legal steps to sue the security guards allegedly

DAVID RUDGE

responsible for beating the workers, the management of the security firm and "those who hired their services."

According to the workers, violence erupted when scores of security guards, armed with batons and knuckle-dusters, attacked a group of six workers on picket line duty near the entrance to the plant's wharf where supplies of ammonia - the raw material used by the firm - are delivered by sea and loaded onto tankers.

"I was going out to the picket lines to relieve those on duty there and I saw one of my work colleagues lying on the ground with his head cut open. Another had his jaw broken and his teeth knocked out. It was terrible," said a worker.

"There were over 100 of these so-called security guards, more like hired thugs, who just attacked the six guys on the picket line and beat them up," said the veteran employee, who was one of over 120 of the firm's 500 workers who received dismissal notices last month.

The notices were subsequently temporarily suspended by order of the Haifa Labor Court.

The uninjured employees called for help and ugly scenes developed, as police who were called in to restore order tried to keep the work-

ers and the security guards apart.

Two of the injured workers were still being treated in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday. Six other workers were hurt - as well as two policemen, a security guard and a journalist - before calm was restored.

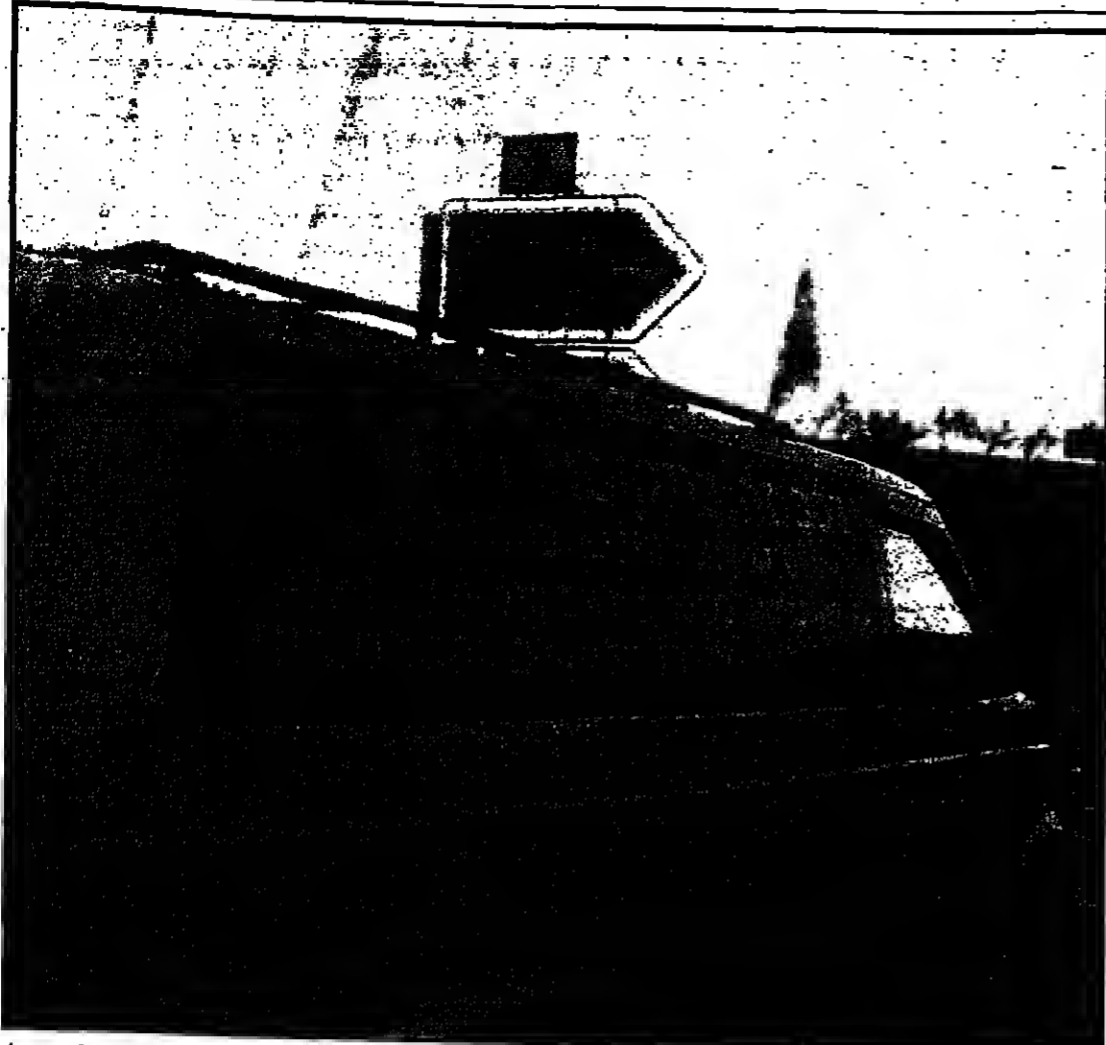
Police arrested three of the security guards but later released them after questioning. Management blamed the workers for the disturbances and indicated it would lodge a complaint with police over the attempted attack on the two officials yesterday.

In the meantime, however, the Haifa Labor Court yesterday ordered the two sides to resume negotiations and instructed them to report back to the court on Sunday.

Management wants to annul the collective labor agreement in order to implement sweeping efficiency measures and enable the company - the world's biggest manufacturer of potassium nitrate, which is used as a fertilizer in agriculture - to compete profitably on overseas markets.

The workers - with the Histadrut's backing - have opposed the plans, which involves widespread dismissals, fearing this would lead to the introduction of personal contracts.

The Histadrut has put forward alternative proposals that would save the company \$8 million a year. These are to be discussed when the negotiations with management resume today.



An unhappy new car-owner on the road yesterday lists those parts of his van that have been changed, including the transmission, while the van has been under warranty. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scop 80)

Compromise reached over mom's ice burial

RAINE MARCUS

THE body of Miriam Astrovsky, which her son and daughter wish to bury in a glacier in Alaska, will be buried before 12 noon today in either formaldehyde or paraffin, a Tel Aviv District Court judge ruled yesterday.

Moshe and Rachel Be'er, who originally placed the body of their mother in a specially prepared fridge after her death on December 3, requested to preserve the body in the hope that scientists may one day bring her back to life. The body was then transferred to Tel Aviv's Wolfson hospital.

On Sunday, police asked the court to order the burial of Astrovsky according to Jewish law. The request was backed by Health Ministry representative Dr Avital Cohen, who said it was impossible to freeze bodies so long after death. Moshe and Rachel Be'er had said that they wished to freeze the body in an Alaskan iceberg, in the hope that

one day scientists would discover how to bring back the dead to the land of the living.

Hevra Kadisha official Rabbi Nahum Hacohen Kook had said that Astrovsky herself was religiously observant and twelve years ago had purchased a grave in the haredi section of Holon cemetery, near family graves. However, Kook said that "considering the sensitive mental state of the siblings," Hevra Kadisha was prepared to compromise regarding the burial.

Yesterday Judge Amiram Binyamini ruled that Astrovsky's body be buried in a wrapping containing formaldehyde or paraffin, the latter at the sibling's request, by 12 noon today.

After the hearing, Dr Cohen said it was "ridiculous that the body be flown to Alaska, and that freezing bodies should be carried out within 48 hours of death, usually after an embalming process."

New product may eliminate uterine X-rays

JUDY SIEGEL

A usually painful and undesirable method of determining a cause of infertility in women may be replaced by a painless and harmless ultrasound technique, as Israel joins the final stage of clinical trials of a German product.

Dr. Ehud Margalit, head of the in-vitro fertilization unit at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, disclosed yesterday that it was the first in the country to use Echovist, a form of galactose (a sugar), in a solution that produces bubbles picked up by ultrasound.

At a hospital conference on women's health organized in conjunction with the Israel Council of Women's Organizations, Margalit said that hundreds of women each year must undergo a uterine X-ray to determine the cause of their infertility - especially whether there are blockages in their

Fallopian tubes and if the interior of their wombs is normal.

But this problem does not show up under an ordinary ultrasound, thus requiring an X-ray of the womb using a very painful injection of contrast medium. About a quarter of all infertile women undergoing diagnosis have to undergo such an X-ray.

However, the Schering company in Germany developed Echovist, which is injected through the cervix into the uterus and makes an ultrasound scan (using a type of sound waves instead of X-rays) possible. Two women underwent the procedure successfully this week, and 20 more are due to have it in the coming months. When the international trials (in Germany, Scandinavia, the US and Israel) are completed, Echovist is to be approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

It's official: Entire country has 7-digit phone numbers

JUDY SIEGEL

EVERY phone number in the country now has seven digits, after the 06 dialing region in the North got an additional number - 6 - last night.

Phone users who aren't sure about the new numbers can call 177-022-0707 for general information. Bezeq said that to help callers get used to the new numbers in the North, they can continue using six digits for an interim period. However, within a few weeks, the six-digit numbers will not work.

Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said the changeover to seven digits is a milestone for the company. "We completed a complex and long process of standardizing the number system, but this will bring about an improvement of service."

By the end of December, all telephone exchanges in the country will be digital, rather than analog, bringing Israel into an exclusive club of countries in which even the US and much of Europe are not members.

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Six Red Cross workers slain in Chechnya

SIX foreign aid workers, five of them women, were shot dead as they slept in a Chechen village yesterday in a cold-blooded assault on their hospital by masked gunmen using silenced weapons.

Local residents watched in grim silence as colleagues loaded coffins onto a white truck bearing the red and white logo of the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose staff was killed in the early morning attack on a hospital compound.

A small procession of vans made its way out of the compound in the village of Novye Atagi, where the ICRC hospital 17 km. from the capital Grozny had treated 1,500 people since it opened in September.

One pick-up truck was packed with luggage - the belongings of those who were killed and of an injured worker who survived.

"It was an assassination," the ICRC's Thierry Meyrat said at a news conference in Moscow, saying the killers used guns with silencers and struck in several rooms of the hospital. "We can all bless ourselves that no more people were killed."

It was the worst single assault on ICRC workers and the bloodiest incident involving foreigners on Russian soil in many years.

Chechen leaders described the attack as a

NINO IVANISHVILI
NOVYE ATAGI, Russia

"political provocation" aimed at disrupting presidential and parliamentary elections planned for January 27 under a controversial peace deal which met open opposition from many in Russia's security forces.

The hospital where the attack took place was opened by the Red Cross's Norwegian branch, which said at the time it had guarantees of security from both Russian and Chechen officials.

"The Russian government appreciates the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross and decisively condemns this cruel and senseless crime," Interfax news agency quoted Prime Minister Viktor Chomyrdin as saying.

The murdered workers, four of them nurses, came from Norway, the Netherlands, Canada, Spain and New Zealand.

The ICRC in Geneva named them as: Hans Elkerbout (construction technician, Netherlands Red Cross), Ingeborg Foss (nurse, Norwegian Red Cross), Nancy Malloy (medical administrator, Canadian Red Cross), Gunnhild Myklebust (nurse, Norwegian Red Cross), Sheryl Thayer (nurse,

New Zealand Red Cross) and Fernanda Calado, a Spanish nurse under contract to the ICRC. Christophe Hensch, a Swiss citizen who ran the project, survived but suffered gunshot wounds.

Meyrat said the Red Cross was pulling all its international staff out of Chechnya, leaving local staff to look after the hospital and a project supplying water to the heavily damaged capital Grozny.

In Geneva, Jean de Courten, head of operations at the ICRC, said the convoy left Grozny at 1200 GMT for the nearby city of Nalchik in the Russian ethnic republic of Kabardino-Balkaria.

He said the gunmen struck at 4 a.m. local time and wore masks.

Novye Atagi residents, long suspicious of Russia's motives in the Caucasus region, denounced the killings.

"We are trying to investigate it, but I am convinced it is a big provocation against Chechnya, against peace in Chechnya," said a local police officer. "We are sure that Russian intelligence is involved."

"No sane person could have done this," added Ali Zabaryev, 45. "We knew these people and they worked in our village, nobody from us could have done this." (Reuters)

President Mobutu returns to Zaire after four months

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) - An ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko returned yesterday to Zaire to the cheers of thousands of supporters, determined to prove that he is still in control of a country shaken by a rebel incursion.

Traditional bands played as Mobutu, wearing his trademark leopard-skin cap, descended smiling and waving from his chartered jet flight from southern France, after four months of cancer treatment and convalescence in Europe.

The 66-year-old Mobutu was received by government and foreign dignitaries.

Embattled Prime Minister Leon Kengo wa Dongo greeted Mobutu at the bottom of the plane steps. The president was wearing a flowered shirt and was accompanied by his wife, Bobi Ladawa.

Dancing troops and children waving the green and yellow Zairian flags crowded around the red carpet, where he took a slow walk, and waved to the crowd.

The loud strains of several bands - from traditional African accompanied by painted dancers to more

contemporary jazz - clashed furiously.

Heavily armed soldiers tried to keep back the crowd of an estimated 7,000 people who were hanging over balconies and off the control tower at Ndjili International Airport.

Many supporters in the crowd said they saw Mobutu as their "savior," who was returning to stabilize the central African country.

"Even if he is sick, even if he is weakened, his mere presence will energize the nation," said Boogombe Bohulu Ousmane, a member of the National Assembly and pro-Mobutu Union for Progress and Action party. "We hope his return will put an end to this crisis in the east. It has become too much."

The president, who has spent less than 24 hours in the capital in the last two years, was to be taken from the airport to Camp Tashashi, a military encampment with a presidential residence in Kinshasa. There, Mobutu was to make a rare broadcast address to the nation.

Banners welcoming some

"Papa" and declaring that the nation "will pray for your recovery," lined the boulevard that leads to the presidential palace.

The Marshal, as he is known here, returns to a military humiliated by a group of eastern rebels, and a country facing a shaky future, possibly without the man who has ruled since 1965. While the government has released little information about Mobutu's health, he has spent the past four months convalescing from treatment for prostate cancer.

Since the rebel offensive began in October, Zaire's response has been limited to angry accusations against its neighbors and embarrassing battle losses. Zairians seemed to want Mobutu back - whether they love or hate him.

"Mobutu is our last defense. Even people who don't like him believe he carries the solution, but the problem now is he's ill," wrote Kin-kiey Mulumba, publisher of the Kinshasa daily Le Soft. "Does he have the energy to engage in the fight for the east of Zaire?"

Saddam's son Uday appears for first time since attack

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, who was shot and wounded on Thursday, appeared on state television yesterday, speaking at ease with a Qatari envoy and a reporter from the official Iraqi news agency.

It was the first appearance of Uday, 32, since gunmen attacked his car as he was driving in Baghdad in the al-Mansour district.

Uday was flanked by bouquets on his hospital bed. His body was covered with a blanket and there were no bandages on his face.

Shebab television, a channel controlled by Uday, said: "He [Uday] received the greetings of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad al-Thani, chairman of the Qatari Cooperation Sports Club, on the occasion of his surviving the

"vicious and treacherous incident he was subjected to."

The Qatari envoy spoke to Uday at Ibn Sina hospital in Baghdad and said the Qatari government was ready to offer medical services needed for his speedy recovery.

Two opposition groups abroad have claimed responsibility for the attack, but there has been no official confirmation of the gunmen's identity. Iraqi authorities have said they were investigating the incident.

Uday heads Iraq's National Olympic Committee and is also head of the Iraq Soccer Federation. He owns Iraq's most influential newspaper, Babel.

He holds a degree in engineering and military studies. He was also chairman of Iraq's Union of Journalists for two sessions.



Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic listens to a three-member delegation of students from the central Serbian town of Nis. They met with him yesterday after 17 students from Nis arrived in Belgrade following a 230 kilometer march. (Reuters)

Milosevic meets with student marchers

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic met yesterday with students who marched 240 kilometers to present their demands for democracy. Students said he promised to investigate charges of election fraud.

The brief meeting in Milosevic's presidential office was the first time the Serbian leader has met with protesters who have held four weeks of demonstrations since opposition victories in local elections were overturned.

Milosevic has defended the election process as fair, but publicly has been careful to keep a distance from the election commissions and courts that overturned the opposition wins.

In recent days, as pressure from the West mounted, they have given back election victories in Nis, the southern city that is Serbia's second-largest, and in Smederevska Palanka.

Zoran Lilic, the figurehead president of the Yugoslav federation, indicated, after the Serbian president met with the students, that he

may now purge associates in an attempt to save face.

"Wherever irregularities are discovered ... opposition demands should be accepted, and responsibility should be established," Lilic said.

Tens of thousands of people were on the streets of Belgrade once more in yesterday's protest.

The students blistered and bloodied their feet in their 48-hour march to Belgrade from Nis. They were greeted overnight by about 1,000 Belgrade students on the highway between the two cities. The Nis students said they wanted to meet Milosevic to show him documents proving the opposition was robbed of its victory.

Students said Milosevic promised to investigate possible election fraud in the November 17 vote, and punish any wrongdoing.

"He promised to punish all those who have breached the law," said Predrag Cveclucanin,

one of the three Nis protesters who met Milosevic in his office for 20 minutes.

"I'm standing behind this," said Milosevic, according to a source who attended the meeting.

Nikola Bozinovic, another student, said Milosevic pledged that "this country will never be ruled by foreign powers." Milosevic's statement echoed his state-run media which have claimed that the demonstrators were US and other Western stooges.

Bozinovic said the students insisted that the opposition be given back its electoral victory in Belgrade. But Milosevic didn't respond, he said.

About 30,000 Belgrade students demonstrated yesterday. More than 1,000 workers joined the protests, the first large group to take to the streets. Serbia's disorganized workers so far have stood on the sidelines, and large-scale participation would be crucial for shaking Milosevic's grip on power. (Picture, Page 8)

Emergency operator missed 'special training' for Olympics

ATLANTA (Reuters) - The emergency operator who fielded the phone call warning of a bomb at Centennial Olympic Park during the Atlanta games was never told how to handle such threats, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution said the woman should have placed an urgent call to law enforcement agencies assigned to protect the park in downtown Atlanta. Instead, she followed a routine procedure that treats bomb threats as a low priority.

As a result, the operator spent 10 minutes trying to find an address for the venue before forwarding the threat to a police dispatcher. The July 27 bomb threat was followed by an explosion at a free outdoor concert that left two people dead and more than 100 injured.

The newspaper said the operator, who has never been identified, missed "special training" that had been ordered for those who staffed the city's 911 emergency calling system.

But the report said the special training itself amounted only to a memo and quoted city officials as saying the 911 center was so chronically short-staffed that its dispatchers and operators had no time for ongoing training.

In the aftermath of the explosion, media reports focused on former Olympic security guard Richard Jewell as the only named suspect in the investigation. He was later cleared of suspicion by the Justice Department.

On Monday, Jewell's attorneys filed a lawsuit against an Atlanta radio station that had championed him while he was still the focus of the FBI and the national news media.

Supercomputer breaks speed record

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) - An Intel Corp. desktop computer chip has become the building block of the fastest supercomputer ever built, a machine so powerful it can peer inside human DNA and simulate nuclear explosions.

The \$53 million supercomputer shattered the speed record by performing more than 1 trillion calculations a second.

Its speed will create a new era in supercomputing, allowing researchers to develop new drugs, predict weather and improve automotive and airline safety, US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said.

John Gibbons, the White House science adviser, said uses for the supercomputer range from finding oil and gas deposits to mapping DNA to prevent genetic diseases or birth defects.

The project also marks the beginning of a computer age that will allow incredibly powerful machines to be assembled from simple building blocks.

"It's a baby step toward being able to do a real simulation of the physical world," said Justin Ratmer, an Intel supercomputer expert.

The record-breaking machine operated at 1.06 teraflops, or trillion floating point operations a second, according to tests last Wednesday. The previous record was 368 gigaflops, or billion calculations a second, set September 27 by Hitachi Corp. of Japan.

Intel, the computer-chip industry leader, hooked thousands of Pentium Pro chips together to set the record.

IBM, meanwhile, is trying to build an even faster supercomputer, one capable of 3 trillion operations a second.

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Hangar workers: NTSB trying to end TWA crash probe

SMITHTOWN, New York (AP) - Workers reassembling TWA Flight 800 wreckage accused the National Transportation Safety Board of trying "to shut the lights off" on the probe by suggesting the plane was brought down by static electricity.

"It's their one-way ticket out of here," said one accident investigator about the NTSB's newest position, that the catastrophic explosion in the center fuel tank might have resulted from a static electricity-induced spark. It's a theory the NTSB acknowledges it has no evidence to support.

Dismayed workers said they suspect the accident agency may be preparing the public for the possibility it might never determine exactly what's to blame for the deaths of 230 people, but wants to present a probable cause that would be nearly impossible to refute.

"It's a theory no one can prove and no one can disprove," said the investigator, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The agency took the position late last week that while nothing is certain, one of its leading theories was that the center fuel tank

exploded because of sparks touched off by static occurring as fuel passed through a pipe in a fuel tank.

"The static electricity theory is premature," the investigator said Monday. "It's a catchall theory that when you can't prove anything else, you can point to that."

The public statements last Friday hit especially hard in the hangar in Calverton where crews have worked around the clock in search of a cause since the Paris-bound plane exploded about 16 kilometers off Long Island on July 17.

Even agency experts studying the electrical and fuel systems of the Boeing 747 were startled to hear what the public was being told. Many of them heard it on the radio.

And James Kallstrom, who is heading the FBI investigation into the explosion, told reporters last week that he was surprised at the NTSB's public speculation that static electricity was to blame for the explosion.

Kallstrom declined to comment this week as it became increasingly clear how strained relations had become between

NTSB authorities in Washington and their workers on Long Island.

Peter Goetz, an NTSB spokesman, denied that there was a rift between officials in Washington and accident investigators at the hangar. He also noted that faulty wiring and a missing

fuel pump are alternative theories still being considered.

Still, the investigator said the workers felt "blindsided" by news of the static electricity theory, since they weren't consulted beforehand and especially since only a small part of the pipe involved has been recovered.

11 years later - large chunks of Challenger wash up on shore

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - Two large chunks of space shuttle Challenger washed up on the Florida shore yesterday, nearly 11 years after it exploded, killing all seven crew members.

NASA identified a rectangular piece of metal, 1.8 meters by 4.5 meters, as being part of Challenger. A smaller piece, 30 cm by 1.5 meters, was found about 10 blocks north, and was also verified as part of the doomed space ship.

The larger piece, believed to be part of the rudder, tail or wing flap, had pieces of thermal tile attached - proof that it was, indeed, from Challenger. Some of the tiles even had identification numbers still on them, said National Aeronautics and Space Administration spokesman Bill Johnson.

"It has been verified. It is for sure a piece of Challenger," Johnson said. The larger piece was found in the surf yesterday morning, nearby Cocoa Beach. Officials had no immediate detail on who found it.

The January 28, 1986, explosion killed Christa McAuliffe, who was to have been the first teacher in space, and her six crewmates, less than 1 1/2 minutes after liftoff.

PFLP's struggle for violence over democracy

PALESTINIAN public opinion has once again become increasingly occupied with the issue of settlements; and the terrorist attack near Ramallah, that claimed the lives of a mother and son, brought to the surface both feelings of struggle against Israel, and internal Palestinian differences.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by George Habash, took responsibility for the murder, and has "promised" to continue the military struggle against the settlements.

This came after a relatively long period during which the PFLP did not execute any military activity. (Palestinian activity against settlements was restricted

in the past to military activity. PFLP-style.)

Meanwhile, for example, Faisal Hussein, together with Peace Now activists, is trying to peacefully demonstrate against the Ras al-Amud settlement in east Jerusalem.

Palestinian Legislative Council member Salah Taamreh is also trying to organize peaceful demonstrations against settlement activity in the region.

These two distinct ways of opposing the settlements — the violent and the non-violent — embody Palestinian ambivalence about how to best confront Israeli policy.

The differences also indicate the very real conflict about what the future

Palestinian state should look like. Those who want to conduct the military struggle intend to strengthen the military features of the Palestinian society by establishing a despotic state based on the military.

Those who are trying to channel the struggle to more peaceful, democratic ways, with the support of Israelis, intend to educate the Palestinian society to move away from violence and undemocratic methods.

But this is only one expression of the internal differences.

The timing of the PFLP attack was not

random. It was not only the anniversary of the organization that preoccupied the minds of its leaders, but also the new trends inside the Palestinian Authority, and how they relate to opposing settlements.

What mostly concerns the PFLP is the inclination of PA leader Yasser Arafat to make a strategic alliance with Hamas. Once those major forces inside the Palestinian political system unite, there will be no room for tiny groups like the PFLP to operate.

Furthermore, such a treaty may determine the nature of Palestinian society

far from the leftist notions of the PFLP to the right-wing, Moslem set of ideas.

This may bring an end to a long period in which the radical organization played a central role in Palestinian history.

The large Hamas demonstration in Khan Yunis last weekend manifested a desire on the part of Hamas to enter such an alliance with Arafat.

The terrorist attack came to declare that the PFLP would vanish into thin air, and if the alliance of the PA with Hamas is designed to be of a combative nature, the "armed struggle" type of organization may disappear too.

But the bosses of the organization may find problems within the Authority.

The PA found the operation extremely damaging, and the formal Palestinian press agency, Wafa, published a special statement that threatened the PFLP if it continued such operations.

The West Bank activists did not like the operation either, because it damaged the position of the PA, and, unlike the leadership that came from the "outside," the "inside" cadres prefer to handle the campaign in democratic ways — not through armed struggle.

Here again we perceive the main schism between the local leadership of almost all groups that prefer democracy, and the orthodox PLO that finds it difficult to understand what democracy is all about.

ANALYSIS PINHAS INBARI

Dubai traders hit by drop in Russian shoppers

YOUSSEF KASSEM

A senior United Arab Emirates official said on Sunday that a drop in Russian and Eastern European shoppers, which has caused some Dubai traders to default on debts, would not hurt the Emirates' economy because it had alternative markets.

"Dubai is an open market. Dubai and the United Arab Emirates have various regional markets," Mohammad Alabbar, director general of Dubai's Economic Department, told Reuters.

"If there is talk about a decline in the number of Russians, then we should remember that when the number of Indian shoppers receded, the Pakistanis came, then the Iranians, followed by Africans and Gulf [Arab] nationals."

Bankers said traders with huge stocks of electronic goods, textiles, and household goods mainly catering to Russian shoppers' taste were having difficulties financing outstanding payments to their suppliers.

Three Asian traders absconded last week leaving behind debts of about two million dirhams (\$540,000), local papers said.

Bankers estimate bad debts in the retail market could be as high as \$1 million.

Travel industry sources said the decline in Eastern European shoppers — who flocked to the duty-free UAE on holiday sprees after the demise of the Soviet Union — started in early 1996.

"Between 1993 and 1995 more than 570 airlines were operating unregistered charter flights to the UAE [from the Commonwealth of Independent

States].

"This dropped to 170 when control systems were established by the Russian civil aviation and IATA [International Air Transport Authority]," said a study by the Dubai-based *Aviamast* magazine.

About 40 flights from the CIS still arrive in the UAE per day, industry sources said.

Among other factors were an increase in Russian import duties and competition from other Middle Eastern markets.

Dubai, which promotes itself as a key regional trade and tourism center, said foreign visitors contributed 13 percent to the Gulf Emirates' gross domestic product last year.

They expected a 63 percent increase in visitors by the end of the decade.

A study by the Dubai Trade and Tourism Promotion Board said visitors from Russia and other former Soviet republics spend some \$1,000 per person per day — 96 percent of it on shopping.

Analysts said Dubai traders and business people overreacted to the several-year Russian shopping boom by buying huge stocks and building far too many shopping malls beyond recommendations by the International Monetary Fund.

"Neither the IMF nor any government can ban competition, be it in shopping malls or production," Alabbar said.

"If there is default on the part of some traders, then this relationship is governed by the terms of the agreement between the parties."

(Reuters)



Los Angeles artist Lita Albuquerque sprinkles ultramarine blue powder on the yellow sands near the Giza pyramids. Her drawing of a field of blue stars won her a prize for her efforts. (AP)

American artist wins prize for Pyramids art project

DALIA BALIGH

AN American artist, whose project was halted after it became tangled in Middle East politics, finally got to draw a field of stars by the Pyramids last Sunday, and won a prize for her work.

"We did it," beamed Lita Albuquerque, a 50-year-old artist from Los Angeles, as she sprinkled ultramarine blue powder on the yellow sands of Giza. "And we got a phone call today that we won a prize. It is pretty wonderful."

Albuquerque planned to use 2.5 tons of blue powdered pigment to draw a field of stars around the Pyramids.

But her project was halted 10 days ago after rumors that she intended to draw a Star of David

by the famed monuments.

The incident reflected the deep distrust of Israel which persists among Egyptians and the tension to relations between the two states nearly 18 years after the two countries signed a peace treaty.

American diplomatic efforts finally paved the way for Albuquerque to carry out her project.

At the crack of dawn, she and some 25 Egyptian art students headed for the desert near the Pyramids and mapped out 99 circles which represent the constellation of stars.

They then started filling the circles with the blue pigment.

"It is a race against time. The wind is blowing the powder away, and we need to take pictures before the circles are blown away and the sun sets," Albuquerque said.

The video and pictures taken during the drawing of the field of stars will be part of her project, which is the United States' entry at the Sixth International Cairo Biennale — an art festival which began last Sunday.

Albuquerque's project dates back to 1988, when she got a vision of a bee covering the Pyramids during a visit to Egypt. The project is based on this vision.

"I believe the bee is the essence

of the soul returning to its star," said Albuquerque. The bee was also a symbol of one of the ancient Egyptian kingdoms, and she took the figure 99 from the 99 names which Islam gives to God.

Her indoor entry in the Cairo Biennale includes a room painted in ultramarine blue with clear glass shelves.

On the glass, her poem of the myth of the golden bee is written in Arabic and English.

Images of stars, mystic Moslems, and bees are drawn around the poem.

A large blue piece with golden bees inside stands in the center of the room.

The project won a prize of \$5,900. (AP)

Khameini: Aggression on Iran risks Gulf security

IRAN'S spiritual leader said last week that any aggression against the Islamic Republic could destabilize the whole Gulf region.

"Any aggression or attempt to make Islamic Iran insecure will make the Persian Gulf more insecure for the enemies of the Iranian nation, particularly those living in glass houses," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a speech carried by the state-run news agency IRNA.

Khamenei, who is also the commander-in-chief of the Iranian armed forces, said Iran was not a threat to the region and that it was protecting Gulf security.

"Outside powers and their followers in the region should know that the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be separated from that of the region," he said in an address to a crowd of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

"The day when Iran enjoys security and calm, the region will be calm too," he said.

Western powers and their Gulf Arab allies have in recent months repeatedly expressed concern over Iran's rearmament program, saying it was a threat to the region.

Leaders of five Gulf Cooperation Council states called on Iran at the end of a three-day summit in Doha earlier last week to end its "occupation" of three Gulf islands claimed by the United Arab Emirates, a council member, and criticized Teheran's military development programs and its deployment of surface-to-air missiles in the region.

The GCC group includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Oman and Bahrain. Bahrain did not attend the council's annual summit. The US has 27 warships in and around the Gulf as part of a "dual containment" policy to deter Iran and Iraq.

Iran, the region's non-Arab power, is strategically placed at the entrance to the Gulf, the narrow Strait of Hormuz, through which 15 million barrels of oil pass a day. (Reuters)

Beirut's former war zone inspires rock stars

HAITHAM HADDADIN

BEIRUT, which shook for years to the roar of big guns, is rocking to a different tune these days.

Electric guitars and hard-rock percussion are joining the wreckers' balls and pneumatic drills on the former Green Line battlefield where the Kalashnikov rifle and the rocket-propelled grenade once ruled supreme.

Scorpions, the legendary German hard-rock band, is the latest in a string of international rock groups and pop stars to play Beirut since the 1975-90 civil war. Its adrenaline-pumping concert was the most lavish in the Lebanese capital to date, with ear-splitting guitar solos and a thundering rhythm section.

"Beirut, there is no city like you," lead singer Klaus Meine belted to 15,000 screaming fans at the Beirut Forum, a recently built exhibition hall.

The fans, who paid up to 65,000 Lebanese pounds (\$41), or a quarter of the Lebanese minimum

monthly wage, were mesmerized by the raw rock hits.

"It is a very positive vibe here. I think everybody and everything is set out for the future, for a better future," Meine told reporters.

Earlier, the Scorpions moved to the former battlegrounds to mime a video clip amid the ruins. Armed with Stratocasters, Flying-Vs and 16-mm cameras, the German rockers shot a clip in a war-gutted hotel overlooking the sea at the northern end of the former Green Line.

None of the grand hotels at the core of Lebanon's thriving prewar tourist industry has been rebuilt yet, although the government is putting in new roads, tunnels, bridges, electricity, telephone and sewage lines all around them.

Motorists driving past the former hotels district saw a leather-clad Meine lip-synching before the camera on a makeshift stage in front of the ruined 20-story Phoenicia Hotel.

Inside the building, a blonde beauty in a see-through dress

swayed atop a white stallion as guitarist Matthias Jabs and Rudolf Schenker played before a backdrop of more wrecked hotels.

They were making the video for the Scorpions' latest single, "When You Came Into My Life."

Band members said the revival of life they witnessed in Lebanon on the last leg of a world tour — their first appearance in the Middle East — might inspire a new song.

"I think coming here for the first time will be an inspiration; maybe there will be a song about this business here for the next album," Meine told reporters.

The band's 1989 hit ballad "Winds of Change" — a symbol of the end of the Cold War era — was the biggest crowd-pleaser at the three-hour Beirut show.

But Jabs' and Schenker's dual-guitar assault on vintage songs like "Rock Like a Hurricane" and "Black Out" and the new "Wild Child" also had Beirut's

Generation X-ers jumping in the air.

"This event shows that winds of change are always somewhere over Beirut. So let us take you far away because you and I need a holiday," Beirut impresario Nagi Baz told the fans in a pun on the lyrics of the Scorpions' 1980s hit "Holiday."

Despite a heavy security escort, the five band members were relaxed, joking and signing autographs at a news conference in Beirut's newly opened Hard Rock Cafe, itself a sign of the rapidly changing times in the reviving capital.

Only four-and-a-half years ago two Germans, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kempster, were the last Western hostages freed by Moslem militants after a rash of kidnappings during the civil war.

War-weary Lebanese first began getting a taste of international

groups after 16 years of war in 1992 when Mexico's Lucia Mendez came to Beirut and nervously performed a show, hours after a car bomb killed three people outside the stadium.

Since then a stream of chart-toppers have come as security improves steadily in Lebanon. They have included Rednex, Dr. Alban, Chris De Burgh, Samantha Fox, Demis Roussos and Patricia

Kaas. But Lebanese fans are still waiting for US bands, who are unable to visit Lebanon due to an 11-year-old US State Department ban on travel to the country. (Reuters)

Gulf papers warn UN's Annan over US influence

GULF Arab newspapers on Sunday urged Ghana's Kofi Annan, elected as the new UN secretary-general, to ensure the organization did not turn into an instrument of the US government.

Saudi Arabia's *Al-Riyadh* daily said US threats to withhold its financial commitments to the UN rendered the "selection and departure of the organization's secretary-general an American decision."

"The issue at the international organization is not in the departure of people and selection of replacements but, in its basic rules and the American hegemony over it," the paper said.

Khalaj Times of the United Arab

Emirates said Annan "will have to prove to the other members of the Security Council that he is not an American puppet."

"Being an old UN hand and an insider, he will have to guard against Washington's plan to make him something of a chief administrative officer," it added.

Amman, 58, who heads UN peace-keeping operations, won the unanimous support of the 15-member Security Council on Friday after France dropped its previous veto threat.

Annan will take over on January 1 from Egypt's Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who sought a second term but was vetoed by the United States. (Reuters)

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The prime minister's responsibility

THIS week, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon did not object to the decision to open the new Western Wall Tunnel exit in September. In fact, Netanyahu claimed, the GSS encouraged him to open the tunnel exit. A close reading of public statements at that time, coupled with a subsequent statement by Ayalon, shows that Netanyahu was correct.

The opposition leaders who rushed to imply that Netanyahu was lying should apologize. It is still a mystery, however, why Netanyahu would pick a public fight with a key security chief at this time.

At a news conference following the outbreak of violence in September, Ayalon said that he had conditionally supported the opening of the tunnel. The conditions were that it should be linked to the start of talks on Hebron redeployment and to an understanding with the Muslim Wakf allowing them to use the Solomon's Stables on the Temple Mount.

At the same time, Ayalon implied broadly that the security services were fully aware that violence was about to break out. He said, "We saw for a long time that all the elements of the inflammation were there. ... We couldn't say what would be the straw [to break the camel's back]." The security chiefs at the press conference also pointed out that they had not been involved in the decision as to when the tunnel exit should be opened, only on the decision in principle.

Based on the mixed signals given at the press conference and subsequent leaks from unnamed security officials, the general impression was that Netanyahu had overridden the security chiefs' recommendations in deciding to open the tunnel.

Yesterday, this newspaper reported that a high-level official in the Prime Minister's Office claims to have transcripts proving that the security services were much more supportive of the decision than they admitted in its immediate aftermath. The transcripts show that Netanyahu repeatedly asked "are you sure about the timing?" and received affirmative answers.

The source claimed that security officials urged Netanyahu, "let's do it already," arguing that the move would help local Arab merchants. There were no warnings about riots, only that "some people are sure to make some noise." The picture that is emerging is one of a prime minister who was poorly advised by his security officials, and of those officials trying to escape responsibility for their intelligence failures by distancing themselves from a disastrous

decision. The fact is that intelligence services are often as blindsided by events as the elected leaders they advise. Seminal events, such as the attack on Pearl Harbor, the collapse of the Soviet Union, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and — in our own context — the Yom Kippur War, the intifada, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, and the tunnel riots, were not predicted in a way that was of much use to decision makers. Just as generals must be wary of fighting the last war, intelligence analysts tend to watch for the last crisis.

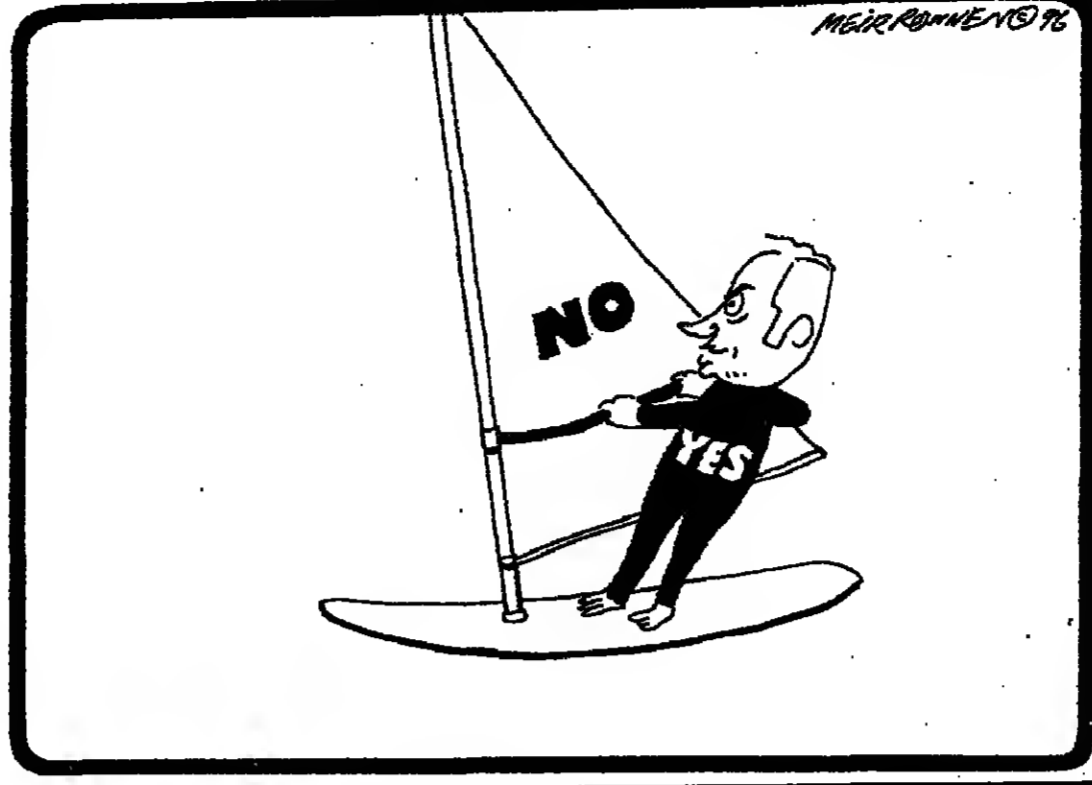
That said, the proper response to massive intelligence failures is not to run for cover but to admit fallibility and learn lessons. In Japan, until recently, failure meant suicide; in Britain it meant resignation. In Israel, the first response to failure is often to blame someone else.

The prime minister, by seemingly trying to tar the GSS with partial responsibility for his decision, has himself compounded the initial error of judgment made by his advisers. Until now, Netanyahu suffered the security services hiding behind his skirts in silence — he should have continued to do so.

It serves no one for the prime minister to accuse the security services of misleading him, even if true. Such accusations will inevitably sour relations between decision makers and analysts, and reduce public confidence in both. In particular, this flap accentuates the feeling of a siege mentality surrounding the Netanyahu government. It is not new, of course, for prime ministers to keep the circle of trusted advisers very small. Former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was also known to keep very close counsel. It is also true that the media inevitably accentuates division and ignores cooperation within the government.

The impression remains, however, that the prime minister does not trust the career bureaucracy that surrounds him. This impression should be remedied by efforts to fully include career officials in the advisory process, for too little trust within government is not a healthy situation.

This does not mean the prime minister has to accept every piece of advice proffered. Intelligence analysts in particular are notorious for making wide predictions that cover every possibility — which minimizes their chances of being wrong without giving decision makers the pointed judgments they need. In the end, the elected leadership must integrate the analysts' recommendations with other considerations, make a judgment call, and bear the responsibility for the results.



From unfair to absurd

LOCAL government is, to put it delicately, in a bit of a mess.

Many municipal authorities cannot pay their workers' wages; others cannot provide residents with a full range of services.

Recent weeks have seen the country facing strikes by many of these municipalities. They are protesting against what they view as the lack of attention paid to local government affairs by their central government paymasters.

If the problems are serious in many of the Jewish settlements, they are three times as serious to their Arab counterparts.

The mayors and officials of Arab local government authorities, beginning their annual conference in Herzliya today, will attempt to pressure central government, in particular the Interior Ministry, into finding solutions to some of these problems.

Walking through neighboring Jewish and Arab municipalities one doesn't have to be a trained planner or geographer to see that, compared with their Jewish counterparts, the Arabs suffer from underdevelopment. Nor need one be a statistician to glance at local government budgets and see that the Arab sector is starved of resources compared with the Jewish one.

None of it is secret. It's out there for all to see, and it raises questions about the nature of our democracy. Are we practicing equal rights for all, or only preaching them?

If we truly aspire to full integration of our ethnic minorities as part of the Israeli citizenry there seems little point in creating separate levels of socioeconomic development for Jews and Arabs. Can we really expect Israel's Arab residents to profess their loyalty to Israel — rather than to an increasing sense of Palestinian identity — if they continue to be excluded from much of the social and economic progress that is part of Israeli life?

Of particular interest is the case of the new Beduin municipalities

DAVID NEWMAN

in the northern Negev.

Ever since the establishment of the state the government has promoted policies of settling the Beduin. Toward this end they have created five new townships in addition to the existing Beduin settlements of Rahat and Tel Sheva.

While the government holds out the attractions of socioeconomic development to get the Beduin to

The 'mayors' of the Beduin communities don't live locally. Even their offices are far away

leave their tents and move into the new townships, the policy has clear political underpinnings. It is part of an attempt to control the expansion of the Beduin community and to try and minimize the amount of land directly occupied by these communities.

As part of the development process the new Beduin communities have now been accorded full municipal status. But instead of allowing them to hold their own free and direct elections, the government has imposed its own appointments to run local affairs for a minimum period of four years, with the possibility of further extension through local government elections in 2003.

In some ways this policy is no different from that of Jewish settlements granted independent municipal status for the first time. The Interior Ministry often insists that the first council be appointed by central government.

This is seen as a way for professional civil servants to help create the local government system while acquainting the inhabitants — the potential mayors — with the basic tools of local government operation.

But all too often these government appointees are not, to put it mildly, the best people for the job. The minister frequently appoints their apparent lack of qualifications.

Not only does this enable the minister to exercise direct control over these communities, it also provides highly generous pension opportunities for party hacks who have served as heads of local government authorities even for a short time.

In the case of the Beduin communities, things have gone from the sublime to the ridiculous. The interior minister has appointed Shas party members to run these municipalities over the next four years.

These appointees have no greater knowledge of local affairs than many of the highly-skilled professional residents (including doctors, lawyers and university lecturers) in the communities themselves.

The appointees go on living in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, "visiting" their communities once, or at best twice, a week. And in the case of the Beduin communities, they continue working out of offices located in Beersheba rather than in the communities themselves.

Rarely having contact with the local people, there is little way these 'mayors' can understand the locals' real needs. Some of the Beduin communities have appealed to the High Court against this blatant form of denial of local democracy.

The system whereby central government appoints local councils and mayors — in Jewish municipalities as well as Arab — is too open to political manipulation and clearly works against the public interest. It requires immediate overhaul.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute of Social Research at Ben-Gurion University. His book on local government reform was recently published by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies.

Tried and true

YITZHAK YELLIN

ONE of the topics on Monday night's *Popolitica* talk show was the dual citizenship of senior prime ministerial advisers David Bar-Illan and Dore Gold. The ugly specter of dual loyalty presided over the proceedings.

The acrimonious exchange of views was a disgusting display of Israeli xenophobia and jingoism at its worst.

Even in the most enlightened countries of the Diaspora Jews have always had charges of dual loyalty leveled against them; now we have to hear it at home.

The dual loyalty issue is deeply bound up with the ambivalent way Israelis tend to view immigrants in general, particularly American immigrants.

Since many native Israelis secretly — and out so secretly — hold that life in America is so much better than here and cannot understand why any sane individual would voluntarily give up the fleshpots of America for Israel, the suspicion that these immigrants' motives may not be the purest is never far from their minds.

(They don't know the other side of it: that American Jews as a rule cannot believe one of their successful Jewish friends could be dumb enough to make aliya.)

The irony is that many Israelis would jump at the chance of "dualty." Given the choice of getting a green card and becoming American citizens, they wouldn't think twice. Highly as it is often been said that Israelis "sing the praises of aliya, but hate immigrants."

There is a reason why Americans who choose to remain here, despite all the difficulties, retain their American passports. It

Wake up, you single-passport Israelis! We dual citizens love the Jewish state as much as you do

Isn't so they can beat a quick retreat when the going gets particularly rough or a better deal is held out elsewhere.

Those American immigrants who make it here — and Bar-Illan and Gold are surely among the best examples of the breed — are in general a great bunch of Jews who tend to be far more accomplished and committed to Israel than the average Israeli.

It is American Jews who make it here who are the real *yordim*, having left the (usually) far higher standard of living, as well as the prestige and power, they had in the US.

How dare Tommy Lapid, Stevahn Weiss and Ori Orr use the dual loyalty issue to question the integrity of the 60,000 American immigrants who stayed here (out of 120,000 who made aliya) and retain their American passports in addition to their Israeli ones?

THE American way of life could teach Israelis a whole lot about civilized debate. Aod the *Popolitica* team would be a good place to begin.

The program's best known for its raucous, venomous exchanges, where it doesn't take much to get everyone yelling at everyone else and viewers, bewildered by the babble, are hard put to make sense of any issue up for discussion.

Far from casting aspersions on Israelis who hold dual citizenship, I would venture to say that the best thing that could happen to this country would be for the majority of its citizens to "hold two passports" — in other words introduce some old-fashioned rules of civility and political debate to this young country.

Israelis think Israel is a real democracy. They ought not to be so afraid of learning something from those who come from a land that truly knows what democracy is: a government of the whole people with the principle of equal rights for all.

Wake up, you single-passport Israelis! We duals really do love the Jewish state at least as much as you do.

And we did what the patriarch Abraham did to get here — we got up and left the country in which we had made our homes.

I wonder what our Israeli critics would do had they been born in America and been faced with the choice of making aliya or staying comfortably where they were.

The writer is a consultant on education and Israel-Diaspora relations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHOCKED

Sir, — I was shocked, angered and saddened by the survey, reported in *The Jerusalem Post* on November 26, concerning the attitudes of Jewish youth: that "more than one-third of Jewish youth hate Arabs, less than one-third said that they'd be prepared to host an Arab in their homes." Also, two-thirds said there was no need to give Arabs in Israel full rights, that is, persons who chose to stay in this country in 1948, who are Israeli citizens and comprise one-fifth of the population!

Is this the way our Israeli youth are growing up? Is this how they are being taught at home and at school? Is it any wonder that border policemen are being accused of violence towards Arabs, with

more reports appearing daily? As an immigrant from Canada, I cannot help but ask what kind of country have I come to — not one, certainly, that teaches and acts upon our sacred Judaic values, the alleged foundation of our society. Kudos to *The Jerusalem Post* whose editorial of November 27 picked up this tragic reality. You have suggested that both religious and secular school pupils need to learn more about democracy, Jewish history and the Arab neighbors with whom we live. How else can we legitimately refute allegations that we are building a racist, apartheid society?

Petah Tikva,
HINDA KING

SELF-DESTRUCTIVE VOCABULARY

Sir, — All over Israel, Arabs build "homes," but Jews build "settlements." Home is one of the most positive words for all peoples. Settlement is a negative and pejorative term for present-day Americans who are sensitive to their history and to millions who live in formerly colonial areas around the world. It has been fruitless to advise the Labor government to cease using such self-destructive vocabulary. It is a major disappointment that the Likud has so far continued the same. As a probable consequence, in her column of December 1 Marilyn Henry reports that the PLO mission is attempting to have the UN term the settlements "colonial."

Jerusalem,
WILLIAM SIMON

OUTLANDISH CLAIMS

Sir, — I wonder where Shulamit Aloni gets her facts. On December 3 you quoted her as saying "they [the haredim] have tens of thousands of strong healthy young men, thugs who do not serve in the army... these people are violent, they've wrecked stores, vandalized cars, beaten up women who work in the Education Ministry in Jerusalem and attacked people driving on the roads." It's true that a small number are guilty of these acts, but that doesn't account for the "tens of thousands" that Ms. Aloni accuses. Since Ms. Aloni knows so much about the haredim, she certainly must know that there is broad condemnation of these acts by fellow haredim and their religious leaders.

It's true that they want Bar-Illan Street closed on Shabbat. So what? There is an alternative route that the drivers can use and the haredim don't demand that it be closed. If Ms. Aloni is so sensitive to "tolerance," then certainly she should be able to understand and tolerate their predicament and work towards a solution instead of blaming them *en masse* for crimes that the majority don't commit, which only leads to more hatred and more intolerance. Ms. Aloni, as a former leader of the party that preaches tolerance and understanding, should know better.

Tel Aviv,
R'a'anna
TAMAR SHAMIR

PRISON CONDITIONS

Sir, — I am outraged by the recent report that Yigal Amir will get a computer in his cell. Do other convicted murderers receive computers in their cells in Israel? How do Yigal Amir's conditions compare to those of his counterparts in the Israeli prison system and in that of the rest of the Western world? If his conditions are representative of the system, are we really achieving all our goals for the prison

system? The fact that Yigal Amir is in prison means that he cannot kill again. But if he has a computer and similar facilities at his disposal, is he really being justly punished for what he's done? How are these conditions going to deter another potential murderer?

ADVISERS

Sir, — According to your report of December 9, MK Ran Cohen objects to David Bar-Illan being an adviser to our prime minister because he also has US citizenship. Why doesn't he object to Dr. Tibi, who holds Israeli citizenship and is an adviser on Israeli affairs to our enemy Arafat, head of the PA? At least, Bar-Illan is a citizen of a friendly country while Tibi is an adviser to our enemy — especially against Israel.

Jerusalem,
ABRAHAM POLACHEK

DEMOCRATS ABROAD

Sir, — I would like to inform all interested US citizens that our requested annual open meeting with take place on December 31, 4 p.m., at my home, 13/12 Moscovitz St., Rehovot. For further information call (08) 945-7671, Sunday through Thursday, between noon and 7 p.m. DAVID FROELICH, Secretary, Democrats Abroad (Israel) Rehovot.

Tragedy of the empty tap

MR. Minister — of agriculture, environment and whatever else has been dumped into your basket: Forgive me if I take up a few moments of your time.

I hope you've been sleeping well these last few nights, because I haven't. In fact I haven't really slept well for quite a while.

You see, I've been worried about the inevitable water shortage we are facing.

I know we had a downpour over the weekend. But a little bit of heavy rain doesn't change the picture. We're talking about annual water depletion, over several years.

Of course many people who had the statistics knew what is bound to happen. Sooner or later, we are just going to run out of water, something many of us cannot imagine.

Droughts are a common occurrence in this region and if, once in mid-December, there has been no significant rain to speak of, it means that we have probably already lost some 10 to 15 percent of our anticipated rainfall for the year.

Of course we can still hope for a miracle, that the heavens will open wide and send us the rain we need. But barring a miracle, we're in for a crisis.

During our last dry spell in 1991-2 it seemed that wherever you turned all you heard about was the water shortage and how to combat it. The government, the media, the environmentalists, everyone was involved. We were all part of a national conservation campaign, and, interestingly enough, it worked.

To the last four months of 1991 water consumption fell drastically, as a result of public awareness — especially in the domestic

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

sector, but in other usages as well.

And then, Mr. Minister, everyone seemed to forget all about the matter. We went back to consuming water with a vengeance. And the level of the Kinneret went up, which made public awareness go down again.

Sooner or later we are just going to run out of water — something many of us can't imagine

While the aquifers were still far from replenished, we all relaxed and stopped paying attention to the water shortage — because, after all, who's ever actually seen an aquifer? Out of sight is out of mind.

Isn't it strange that since the earliest months of 1992 we never heard anything about saving water — not from the Water Commission, or from the responsible ministers?

In fact only the environmentalists were saying there was a problem. But they were clearly sowers of panic and doom, and out of touch with the times.

Because you see, Mr. Minister, when the government is silent on an issue the public tends to believe all is well.

BUT THAT wasn't the case. We were living in a fools' paradise, and it was only a matter of time until we faced a water shortage again.

But this time we must also face

the fact that since the last shortage — which we managed to scrape through — we have done a number of things to exacerbate the situation.

We have expanded industry (while failing to outlaw the growing of water-wasteful agricultural products that can be more cheaply purchased abroad). We have absorbed a further half-million immigrants and our water resources under peace treaties (Jordan) and arrangements (the Palestinians).

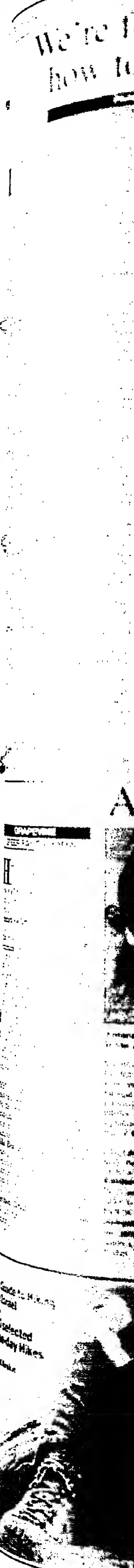
What this means is that anyone who thinks things are going to be easier this time around is mistaken. Time is running out, and if anything is to be accomplished to alleviate the looming crisis we ought to be doing it now.

One of the first things to do is organize a national water conservation drive, to include everybody from industrialists, agriculturalists, municipalities (the worst wasters) down to the ordinary guy watering his garden.

Mr. Minister, surely you and a lot of other responsible public servants ought to have known that a water crisis was inevitable. After all, environmentalists, myself among them, have been sounding warnings for years. Unfortunately, all that has happened is that we have acquired a reputation for being eccentric.

Please, Mr. Minister, take us and our warnings seriously. Do what urgently needs to be done so all of us can start watching how we use our water, and sleep just a little easier at night.

The writer contributes an environment column to The Jerusalem Post.



We're forgetting how to parent

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

INGUN Schneider, RPT, physical therapist, Waldorf educator, and remedial consultant, was recently in Israel. Following is a report of a talk she gave on changes in what she calls "childhood culture" and what parents can do to ensure healthy development in their children.

In airports around the world, Schneider said, she sees children carrying the same media-influenced toys: Barbie dolls for girls and Power Rangers or their equivalents for boys. Children who used to spend much of their time outdoors - running, climbing, jumping, digging - now spend more time sitting still in front of screens - the television or the computer.

Once, many cultures observed an almost sacred period of 40 days for mother and newborn when both were protected against outside stimulation. Now, more and more mothers are returning to work earlier and earlier. It used to be that people knew how to parent; now we learn how from books and articles.

The way we receive information about child-rearing has changed. Parents and grandparents often live far away and huge gaps in information and consciousness make us wary of accepting their advice in the first place. Schneider said she is not bemoaning this fact; there are advantages to being more conscious.

We can't change the culture, Schneider said, but there are things we can do to help our children develop in as healthy a way as possible. During the first three years, she said, children are most involved in the exploration of space. As parents, our job is to facilitate that exploration. There is no need, Schneider insisted, on "inhibiting contraptions" like swings and walkers. Her advice: boycott the contraptions. Babies need to crawl. Let the young child explore freely in a safe area. A healthy child will seek out her own movement needs. And let the child develop at her own pace.

Parents are often very proud of a nine-month-old who, with encouragement, has learned to walk, but Schneider says she often sees that same child at 10 because he has learning difficulties.

Early walkers, she said, may miss out on the integration of the nervous system that takes place when the baby crawls.

From about three to five months, the child's main task is establishing left-right dominance. Will be right- or left-handed? Schneider pointed out that dominance exists not only in the hands but in the eye and leg, and it should all be on the same side. When dominance is established, specialization in the right and left hemispheres of the brain can take place. (The right hemisphere is more artistic, the left

more linear and logical.) If you notice that your child draws with the right hand but prefers the left leg, you can play games with him that encourage hopping and kicking with the right leg.

From five to about seven months, children complete their body awareness. A kind of remodeling of the body takes place and you notice them getting longer and leaner and losing that baby look. All this development, said Schneider, is facilitated through movement. So we need to provide an environment in which children can move in a way that is always more challenging than last month. This helps in the healthy development of the nervous system and of the senses.

So if your child has mastered catching a ball, try playing a game with him in which he tosses the ball under a lifted leg and catches it. Ordinary household tasks, such as sweeping, hand-washing and wringing clothes, folding laundry, washing dishes and dusting, also provide needed movement opportunities.

Children today sit too much and their senses are overstimulated, Schneider contended. They also tend to start puberty earlier than they used to. A study in Germany showed that girls in public schools menstruated earlier than girls in Waldorf schools, which stress movement, being in nature, and physical work.

Schneider highly recommended three books by the American psychologist David Elkind: *The Hurried Child* and *Miseducation*, about the risks of pushing cognitive learning in pre-school; and *All Grown Up and No Place to Go* about adolescents.

Like many experts, Schneider emphasizes the importance of touching our children. We need to nurture their sense of touch, she said.

One way is by playing touching games. She taught a rhyme said while doing the appropriate movements on your child's back: "Criss-cross, apple sauce, spiders crawling up your spine. Cool breeze, tight squeeze, now you got the chillsies." (Sweep your hands from right shoulder to left hip, then the opposite; make circles in the middle of the back; crawl your finger tips from bottom to top; blow on the neck; squeeze the shoulders.)

If your child is sensitive to touch (if you have to cut the labels off his clothes, if he refuses to wear zippers, if he gets aggressive when accidentally touched), use a firmer, deeper touch.

Movement educates, said Schneider. Sitting still at a desk is very challenging for a first grader. But he will be able to do so if he has given plenty of opportunity for movement in the first six years.

ASK the impoverished Mexican community of San Diego, California, what their major health problem is, and they'll tell you without hesitation: Gunshot wounds. Ask the same of the homeless in San Diego's central park, and their answer is: Deep cuts to their hands, inflicted when foraging in trashcans for food. Here in Israel, as everyone knows, a leading and steadily climbing cause of severe injury and death is found on the country's roads, with the toll of traffic accidents rising each year.

When, however, you ask what the health authorities - local clinics, doctors, hospitals, the Health Ministry - are doing about the carnage on the roads, urban violence, and feeding the homeless, the answer is: Nothing at all. "And nor should they," says Shimon Camiel, a San Diego-born Doctor of Education and an expert in community-based public health. "That's not their job. Their job is the practice of medicine, a practice which makes a clear contribution to the health status of a community. But, the point is, no more than that - just a contribution."

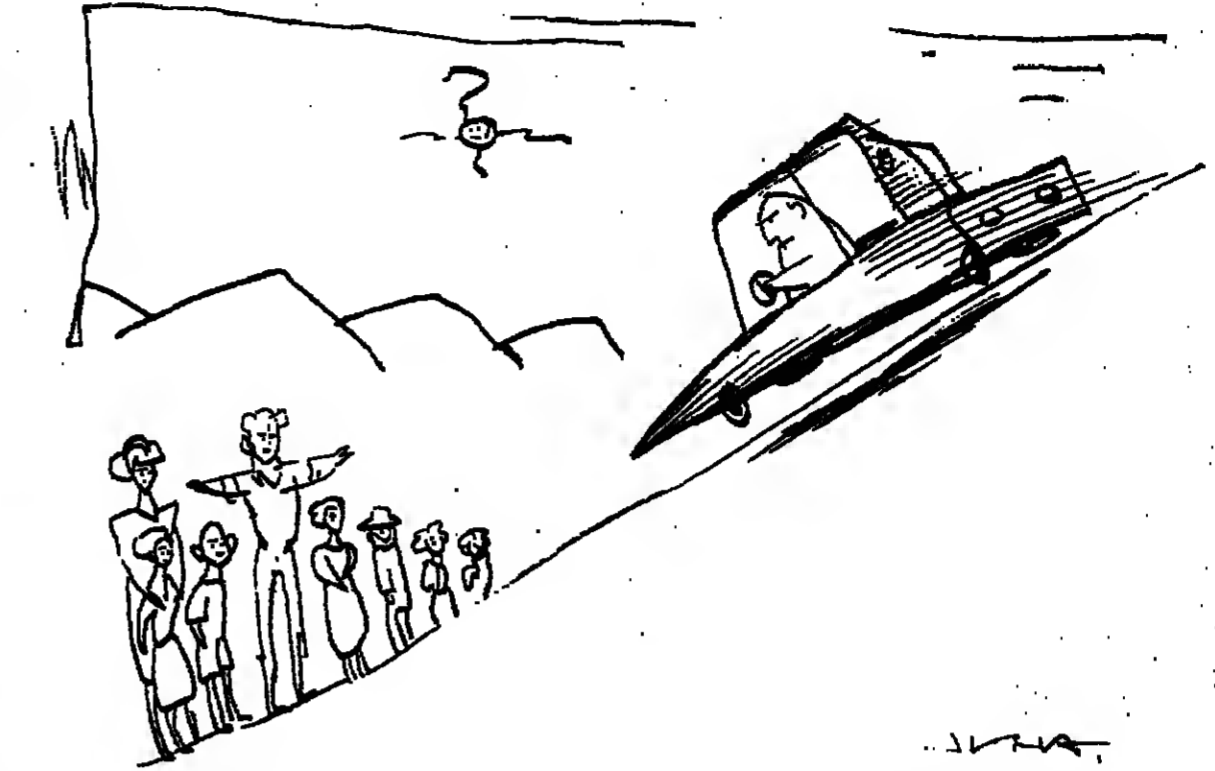
The major causes of many illnesses, he explains, are environmental or behavioral. Environmental causes include poor nutrition, stress, frustration, overcrowding, and toxic surroundings. Behavioral causes are primarily violence.

The starting point of my branch of public health - community-based public health - is the environmental and behavioral problems that affect health," he says. "If you take this approach to its logical conclusion, the community itself becomes the patient, and the aim is to get the community to plan its own preventive health care. That is, people are encouraged to solve their own health problems by taking charge."

Israel's first practical experiment in community-based preventive health is now underway in Kibbutz Neot Mordechai in the Hula Valley, a 400-member community where Camiel and his family lived for 20 years. Although they left Israel for San Diego in 1979, Camiel still spends two months of every year on the kibbutz.

"My visit last year coincided with a terrible traffic accident, in which a young kibbutz father of several children was killed," says Camiel. "The whole community was plunged into mourning. As we stood at the graveside, people were saying: 'Death on the roads has to stop!' They knew the kind of health work I do, and asked me to help."

The kibbutz already had a health



committee, but what the community was now looking to do was to develop an entirely new health approach. That new approach begins, says Camiel, with a new perspective.

"As I said before, the idea is to get people to take charge of their own health affairs," he says. "The existing system makes the patient unbelievably passive. He goes to the doctor when he's sick and unquestioningly does what he's told. In community-based public health, people start by developing a sense of community that makes them feel powerful enough to take charge."

San Diego's homeless, for example, after being encouraged to identify their deep cuts as a major health problem in the community, decided on their own solution: Obtaining thick work-gloves to protect their hands. Following its road tragedy, Neot Mordechai decided to try and control traffic in and out of the kibbutz. They've started by tracking the speed of cars entering and leaving the settlement. Guided by a Jerusalem engineer, the kibbutz entrance is now staked out, stopwatches primed.

"We can't yet know if this survey can later be developed into something that will work, but that doesn't worry me," says Camiel. "What's important is that the community has identified a major health hazard, and by taking its

solution into their own hands they have become responsible for their own environment. If what they're doing now doesn't work, they'll look for something else that does."

Camiel sees this project at Neot Mordechai as a prototype for all the country's rural communities - rural, for the moment, not only because this is where a beginning has been made, but also because results can be seen quickly in these communities. Alongside the traffic survey, the kibbutz has already undertaken a second disease-prevention initiative, nudged along by Camiel.

"We went into the community's cemetery," he says. "Our purpose was to study causes of early death - that is, what had killed all those who died before age 65. There were 52 such deaths. [The kibbutz was founded in 1948, and its first grave dates from 1954.] People had died young for predictable reasons: A quarter had been felled by heart disease and another quarter by cancer. Many of the other deaths resulted from traffic accidents and army service."

While the community's losses to cancer have been serious, with many of its victims dying very young, the cemetery findings essentially produced no surprises. "The point of the exercise," says Camiel, "was to launch a system in which any community can

gather statistics and figure out why its members get sick and die before their time.

"The next stage is to think about how their community defines its loss - in grief, in shock, and in economic terms. One possible measure is the number of years of healthy life that have been lost to the group. What Neot Mordechai decides to do with these cemetery figures is up to them. They will take charge."

While Israel is a leader in community-oriented primary care (Little Hadassah in Jerusalem's Kiryat Hayovel neighborhood is a major success story with a world reputation - but it is administered by experts, rather than by the community), community-based public health is new to the country.

"In the Third World, it's the WHO's dominant model," says Camiel. "Take a country like Nigeria, where the health budget is \$20 per person per year, and there's little alternative. In Israel, with its far larger health budget and its enormous number of doctors relative to the population, we do have alternatives. But this doesn't mean they're necessarily better. I think it's very important that we regularly critique the existing medical model, and consider whether it's time for a shift of emphasis. This can often be a healthy approach."

Aviv gets a little help from Papa Yonatan

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

HIS celebrity status and the fact that he's a married man doesn't mean that pop idol Aviv Gefen doesn't occasionally need a little help from his dad. Popular writer and monologist Yonatan Gefen, who's a celebrity in his own right, penned an open letter in *Ma'ariv* to President Ezer Weizman protesting at his bad-mouthing of Aviv and his outspoken criticism of prime ministers who embrace symbols of avoidance of army service. Papa Gefen has asked the president for a public apology for these and other deprecatory remarks such as his dubbing of Aviv as "the Michael Jackson of the poor." Gefen can afford to take liberties with Weizman. They're almost related. Weizman was the brother-in-law of Gefen's late uncle Moshe Dayan.

YET ANOTHER case of a prophet not being heard in his/her own city. At the Nevech Tzedek champagne-and-lattes opening of a retrospective exhibition of her fashion sketches, designer and illustrator Riki Ben-Ari recalled that many years ago, when serving as fashion consultant to the Israel Export Institute, she had once been criticized in the presence of her friend and fellow fashion designer Gershon Bram. Pointing in the wall adorned by Parisian posters featuring group illustrations of fashion forecasts for the year ahead, the



Yonatan Gefen (left) came to the aid of his son in an open letter to the president.



Riki Ben-Ari (right) is the author of the letter.

IEI official had chastised Ben-Ari for her lack of vision and asked why she couldn't be abreast of Parisian trends. Whereupon Bram interceded to suggest that their journalist take a closer look at the signature on the posters, which was that of Riki Ben-Ari.

CELEBRITIES ABROAD often have their stuns deflated at home. Only a few months ago Haim Rabinovich was Israel's much-feted and heavily guarded ambassador to Washington. Now that he's back in the world of academia, the bodyguards are gone, and few people jump up and down when he enters a room. Take for instance last Friday. Rabinovich was among

those who braved the early morning rain to keep an appointment at the Marilyn Monroe coffee shop in Ramat Aviv. Hardly anyone noticed he was there, but then again, in that part of the woods, they're rather blasé about celebrities. The Marilyn Monroe coffee shop is almost exactly on the half-way mark between the homes of Leah Rabin and Shimon Peres and there are famous people living in nearly all of the surrounding apartment blocks.

THAT OLD-TIME religion is getting to so many entertainers, that they may just have to change the Friday night programs on television for lack of big-name stars. Among those joining the ranks of

the penitents is comedian Eli Yatzpan, who at a gala Or Haim Yeshiva fund-raiser at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel contributed NIS 5,000 out of his own pocket after being blessed by nonagenarian celebrity sage, kabbalist and miracle worker Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri. Yatzpan also announced that he will soon stop his Friday night appearances and reiterated the statement on Sunday night on the premiere of Rafi Reshef's new talk show. The chair and pillows on which Kaduri was reclining at the Or Haim function fetched \$6,000 for the cause.

AFTER 15 YEARS of hell, actor-producer Paul Michael Glaser, best known for his role in the TV

detective series *Starsky and Hutch*, has found happiness again by marrying Tracey Brown, who is 20 years his junior. Glaser's first wife Elizabeth Mayer, who contracted AIDS through blood transfusions given to her in her last month of pregnancy and unwittingly transmitted it to her two children, died two years ago after waging a valiant battle with the disease and becoming an extraordinarily successful fund-raiser for AIDS research. One of the children also succumbed.

TOO TIRED to see straight. While actor Tom Hanks was directing his first movie, *That Thing You Do!*, he came onto the set one day in a total state of exhaustion.

Notwithstanding his fatigue, he noticed a very attractive young woman and made a play for her. Hanks received very positive vibes from the lady in question which was hardly surprising, since she happened to be Rita Wilson, who in addition to playing a waitress in the film, also happens to be his wife. He was just so out of it, that he didn't recognize her under the make-up.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, December 18, 1996



A Serbian student gestures during a protest march outside the parliament building in Belgrade yesterday. The government, facing a tidal wave of street protests, said it was dropping debate of highly unpopular labor laws which economists say could have left 800,000 people unemployed.

UBS upgrades Bank Leumi to 'buy'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNION Bank of Switzerland, one of the world's most prominent financial institutions, has upgraded its evaluation of Bank Leumi's stock to a "buy" recommendation from its previous "hold" rating.

The Zurich-based bank's analysis of Leumi is based on its third quarter financial statement, which shows a steady growth in profits and improvement of return on equity.

"Profitability and the return on equity should increase strongly from the relatively low level of 1995. Just to return to the sector norm of 10% leaves the rating of the shares unduly cheap," UBS said.

Bank Leumi is one of the two dominant banks in the local market, with a market share of about 30%. UBS attributed the improved rating to the positive change seen in Bank Leumi's attempts to reduce its cost base, mainly by reducing its staff by 3%.

Lorenz to MKs: Don't shackle Frenkel

EVELYN GORDON

THE establishment of an outside governing council whose approval would be needed for decisions on monetary policy would be "a terrible mistake," Rabbi Shlomo Lorenz, chairman of the Bank of Israel's advisory council, told the Knesset Finance Committee's banking subcommittee yesterday.

Lorenz, who is also a former Knesset Finance Committee chairman, was addressing the committee's subcommittee on banking, which was reviewing a number of submitted bills, which would establish such an external council or otherwise limit the powers of central bank governor Jacob Frenkel to set interest rates.

Belgians get right to sabbatical

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Taking a career break has become a general right for all Belgians, the Belgian government decided yesterday.

The government said in a statement that from January 1, 1997, Belgian employees can take non-paid leave for a total of three years during their entire career and this in periods lasting between three months and one year. Per calendar year, at least one percent of employees per company can get a sabbatical.

For smaller companies with less than 100 employees, unions and employers organizations have until May 31 to work out an arrangement.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Soros fund buys into El-Rov: Quantum Emerging Growth Partners C.V., a \$1.5 billion fund managed by American investment magnate George Soros, has purchased 5.44 percent of El-Rov (Israel) shares for NIS 10 million.

Karmiel may become large city: The Construction and Housing Ministry has announced it is preparing a proposal to turn Karmiel into a city of 100,000 people by 2020.

Panel to discuss regional business: The economic aspect of the Middle East peace process will be discussed by a panel of senior diplomats and businesspeople in Herzliya tonight.

Munich Re buys stake in Alte Leipziger unit: The world's leading reinsurance group Muenchener Rueckversicherungs AG said yesterday that it had bought a stake of nearly 20 percent in fellow German insurer Alte Leipziger's international holding company.

Bulgaria offers two pharmaceutical plants for sale: Bulgaria's cabinet approved the privatization of two major pharmaceutical plants, the Dupnitsa-based Pharmasia and Troyapharm in Troyan in a bid to boost budget revenue.

Belarus in oil crisis, currency rules blamed: Belarus, a former Soviet republic largely dependent on Russia for its oil supplies, is in deep crisis as its two oil refineries run out of oil mainly due to a currency crunch, industry sources said yesterday.

Sandoz, Ciba-Geigy mega-merger gets US gov't approval: The U.S. Federal Trade Commission yesterday agreed to the multi-billion dollar merger of Swiss drug giants Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz to become Novartis, if they meet certain conditions.

Sandoz, Ciba-Geigy mega-merger gets US gov't approval

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Federal Trade Commission yesterday agreed to the multi-billion dollar merger of Swiss drug giants Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz to become Novartis, if they meet certain conditions.

Typically, final approval occurs within two weeks after the close of public comment. The FTC said Sandoz has agreed to license some gene therapy technology and patent rights to Rhone-Poulenc-Roror so that it can compete against the new combined firm.

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Table with financial data: ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Includes exchange rates for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (17.12.96).

Vertical sidebar containing various market data and financial news snippets, including "LONDON METAL MARKETS" and "NEW YORK METAL MARKETS".

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US Dollar ... NIS 3.2800 +0.03%
Sterling ... NIS 5.4683 +0.27%
Mark ... NIS 2.1178 +0.48%

NEW STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
DJ Industrials ... 10078.00 +3.30
DJ Transport ... 2007.00 +0.50

Other stock market indexes
NYSE 100 ... 3979.00 +0.10
NASDAQ ... 20700.00 +0.20

Israeli stocks in US
AMBI ... 38.50 +0.25
AMBI ... 38.50 +0.25
AMBI ... 38.50 +0.25

LIBOR RATES
3 months ... 4.75
6 months ... 5.00
12 months ... 5.25

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US Commodities
Cocoa (Mar) ... 1550.00
Coffee (Mar) ... 117.00
Copper (Mar) ... 1.00

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Shares drop on Wall Street decline

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET
Dan Gerstenfeld
Two-Sided Index: 203.04 (-1.34%)
Maof Index: 211.38 (-1.12%)

SHARES closed lower yesterday in dull trading amid the decline of stock prices on Wall Street and political uncertainty, dealers said. The benchmark Mismatan index fell 1.34%, or 2.75 points, to 203.04 on all-share turnover of NIS 69 million against NIS 78m on Monday.

Eurobourses dip on Wall Street worries

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares finished moderately lower yesterday as investors remained nervous about a possible Wall Street slide after its recent weakness. The DAX-30 index of 30 top German shares closed 40.66 points lower at 2,815.13.

Dow closes higher WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Blue chip stocks rose yesterday but failed to break the broader market with them, as investors got confirmation that the Federal Reserve would not raise its short-term interest rates targets.

BAR-ILLAN

(Continued from Page 1) Netanyahu out to expand settlements. Bar-Illan denied that Netanyahu felt beleaguered as a result of the growing international criticism. At the same time, he did not think it was possible to convince the US to accept Israel's views on settlements.

PARIS

According to Leiter, "Not calling these illegal Palestinian settlements into question, and refraining from labelling them 'obstacles to peace' suffers from an inconsistency which can only mean that have engaged their long standing strategic aim of destroying Israel... it is because of the persistent growth of Jewish settlement.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or additional page indicator.

Mac. Tel Aviv, Mac. Haifa reach Toto Cup semifinals

ORI LEWIS

MACCABI Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa both advanced to the semifinals of the Toto Cup after finishing top of their respective groups with wins yesterday.

In matches held over from the weekend because their players were on international duty, Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Ironi Rishon LeZion 3-1 and Maccabi Haifa came back from a 3-1 deficit in Beit She'an to beat the hosts 4-3.

Beit She'an were by far the better side in the first half, although Haifa opened the scoring in the eighth minute with an Amir Turjeman goal.

Beit She'an then came into their own and scored through Oleg Kochluk (19th minute) and headers by Nimrod Elbaz (24) and Dragan Dankovic (38).

In the second half, Beit She'an retreated, hoping their lead would be enough to see them through to the final whistle, but errors by their goalkeeper, Meir Cohen, saw the Haifaies back into the match.

Turjeman headed in after Cohen failed to clear the ball from a move resulting from a free kick in the 58th minute.

Cohen then let in a tame free kick by Haim Silvas in the 61st minute and Hezi Shirazi scored the winner in the 78th minute to see Haifa into the semifinals where they will face Hapoel Haifa

on February 11. Maccabi Tel Aviv had a much easier time in their last match in group A where they beat Ironi Rishon to move ahead of Hapoel Tel Aviv.

Amit Levy set Maccabi on their way with an 11th minute goal and Yevgeny Kashnitssev added two more in the second half (54 and 62). Belarussian Vladimir Klimovich scored a late consolation goal for Rishon.

The final Toto Cup group C match between Beitar Jerusalem and Bnei Yehuda will be played in the capital this afternoon with the hosts requiring a win to capture the last semi-final berth against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

TOTO CUP National League table with columns for Group, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.



GO, MAN, GO! - Miami QB Dan Marino (13) hands off to running back Karim Abdul-Jahhar during the fourth quarter of Monday night's game in Miami.

Slumping Bills lose to Dolphins

MIAMI (AP) - The Buffalo Bills' slump is so severe that they can't even beat the Miami Dolphins. Needing a win to clinch an NFL playoff berth, the Bills instead lost their third game in a row Monday night.

After Moulds scored with 4:09 left, Miami caught a break when the officials ruled the ball was dead on an apparent fumble by O.J. McDuffie at the Dolphins' 25.

minutes, scoring on Jim Kelly's TD passes of 67 yards to Andre Reed and 16 yards to Eric Moulds. Marino went 26-for-37. His 5-yard touchdown pass to McDuffie led 16-7 with 11 minutes left.

Joe Nedney kicked three field goals for the Dolphins, including an 18-yarder to give them a 9-7 lead midway through the third period.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE and NATIONAL CONFERENCE football standings tables.

Bucks rip Celtics

BOSTON (AP) - Vin Baker had 28 points and 11 rebounds on Monday night as the Milwaukee Bucks gave coach Chris Ford a victory in his FleetCenter debut, beating Boston 107-91.

Andrew Lang had 12 points and 13 rebounds and Glenn Robinson had 19 points and nine boards for the Bucks, who have won three straight and five of six. Dana Barros led Boston with just 16 points.

Ford played for the Celtics from 1978-82 and coached them from 1990-95, when he was fired by current coach and director of player personnel M.L. Carr. Ford caught on with the Bucks this year, taking on a promising roster that has a chance at the playoffs.

Pistons 98, Raptors 92 Grant Hill scored 27 points and visiting Detroit closed the game with a 10-0 run. Hill added 12 rebounds and scored four points during the decisive run as the Pistons overcame a four-point deficit.

Hill's layin tied it at 92-all, and Lindsey Hunter made two free throws before Otis Thorpe tipped in a Hill miss, giving the Pistons a 96-92 lead. Hill's 13-foot jumper with 9.9 seconds left capped the closing spurt.

Joe Dumars had 21 points and Thorpe finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons. Doug Christie scored 20 points and Wali Williams 15 for Toronto, which

dropped its third straight. Bulls 97, Kings 89 Chris Webber had 24 points and Juwan Howard added 21 as visiting Washington handled undermanned Sacramento.

Webber added 14 rebounds for the Bulls, who won their fourth straight game. Washington's defense limited Sacramento to just 15 points in the third quarter.

Monday's NBA RESULTS: Milwaukee 107, Toronto 91 Detroit 98, Toronto 92 L.A. Clippers 122, Phoenix 121, OT Washington 97, Sacramento 89

EASTERN CONFERENCE basketball standings table.

WESTERN CONFERENCE basketball standings table.

Wembley picked as England's stadium

LONDON (AP) - Wembley was selected yesterday as the site for England's new national stadium, beating out Manchester in a race to build a 21st century venue that will be the centerpiece of bids for the Olympics and World Cup.

The Sports Council awarded Wembley a £120 million grant to help rebuild the storied stadium, which will involve razing the old stadium and leaving only its famous Twin Towers.

The total cost of the new 80,000-seat stadium is estimated at about £230m with work scheduled to begin in 1998. Wembley, opened in 1923, hosted the 1948 Olympics and the 1966 World Cup.

The new stadium will be the country's top venue for soccer, track and field and rugby and will play a central role in planned British bids for the 2001 World Track Championships, the 2006 World Cup and the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Everton downs Derby

LONDON (Reuters) - England forward Nick Barby headed a late goal to give Everton a 1-0 English Premier League win at Derby on Monday night.

Barby reacted quickly to score from point blank range in the 86th minute after midfielder Joe Parkinson's 25-meter effort had rebounded off the crossbar.

Everton's victory lifted the team into seventh place, eight points behind leaders Arsenal. Derby was left to rue its missed chances, most notably a header by forward Ashley Ward which flashed just over the bar midway

Table with columns W, L, D, GF, GA, Pts for various football teams.

CLASSIFIEDS

Real estate classifieds including 'RATES', 'APARTMENT FOR RENT', 'CHARMING HOUSE', 'OLD KATAMON', 'BAKA, PRIVATE BEAUTIFUL', 'GERMAN COLONY', 'GREAT OPPORTUNITY', 'WHERE TO STAY', 'DWELLINGS', 'HOLIDAY RENTALS', 'HOLIDAY FURNISHED APARTMENTS', 'RENTALS'.

Job and service classifieds including 'SITUATIONS VACANT', 'HOUSEHOLD HELP', 'RESTAURANT HELP', 'EXCLUSIVE RESTAURANT', 'SITUATIONS VACANT', 'HOUSEHOLD HELP', 'FORGET THE REST!', 'SITUATIONS VACANT', 'HOUSEHOLD HELP', 'IMMEDIATE JOBS AVAILABLE', 'GOOD CONDITIONS, HIGH SALARY', 'NICE FAMILY LOOKING FOR live-in au pair', 'OFFICE STAFF', 'DIAMOND-EXCHANGE/SECRETARY TYPIST', 'DIAMOND-EXCHANGE/SECRETARY TYPIST', 'KOREAN EMBASSY, HEBREW', 'SITUATIONS VACANT', 'HOUSEHOLD HELP'.

Rangers harpoon Whalers at the Garden

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Rangers scored three times in the first period and Mike Richter made 39 saves in a 5-2 victory over the Hartford Whalers on Monday.

Bill Berg scored on the game's first shot. Luc Robitaille on a power play and Adam Graves short-handed as the Rangers handed Richter a 3-0 lead after one period.

That's all the offensive support Richter needed as he extended his unbeaten streak to eight games (7-0-1) and extended the Rangers' best stretch of the season to 8-1-1 in their last 10. The Rangers went over the .500 mark for the first time in 15-14-5.

Richter, 13-9-2 overall, really proved his worth in the game when he turned back Hartford without a goal in the second period as the Whalers outshot the Rangers 15-7. The Rangers got a goal by Doug Lidster to take a 4-0 lead into the third period.

Wayne Gretzky had the other goal for the Rangers, who have outscored opponents 41-20 in their last 10 games and lead the National Hockey League in scoring with 117 goals. Jeff O'Neill and Geoff Sanderson scored for the Whalers.

EASTERN CONFERENCE NHL standings table.

WESTERN CONFERENCE NHL standings table.

MONDAY'S NHL RESULTS: Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 2 N.Y. Rangers 5, Hartford 2 New Jersey 5, Calgary 0

TENNIS BRIEFS

New tourney planned for top-ranked women With ambitions to take over the women's Masters from New York, promoters in Frankfurt are planning a new eight-player tennis tournament, starting in December 1997, organizers said yesterday.

The so-called "Masters of Champions" will be held December 3-7, 1997, and will offer prize money of \$1.8 million, promoter Ralf Moehwald said.

Agassi to play in Davis Cup in February Andre Agassi, looking to jump-start his tennis game after a disappointing year, said on Monday he will play in the first-round of the Davis Cup set for Brazil in February.

Vertical sidebar containing 'CLASSICAL MUSIC', 'ENGLISH THEATER', 'CRYPTO' and a large graphic of a classical building facade.

Reform Movement: Religious sector gets NIS 5b. from gov't

TAXPAYERS are paying over NIS 5 billion in "hush money" to the religious sector, three and a half times the amount spent on social welfare, according to a report compiled by the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center.

HAIM SHAPIRO

NIS 300 million.

The report indicates that from the 1991 to the 1997 budget, there was an increase in real terms of payments to this sector of the population.

The major sums for 1997 are NIS 1,349m. for the Religious Affairs Ministry and NIS 3,190m. from the Education Ministry, with another NIS 220m. in the Interior Ministry budget.

According to the report, which characterizes funds allocated to the religious sector as hush money to keep the religious parties quiet, there are presently 170,000 students in institutions subsidized by the Religious Affairs Ministry, compared to about 100,000 university students.

The figures - compiled from allocations and estimates derived from the proposed 1997 budget, before the NIS 1.2b. budget cut, as well as religious council and local council payments - were assembled after the Knesset Finance Committee sent the Religious Affairs Ministry's budget back to the Finance Ministry with the demand that not only should the Religious Affairs Ministry's budget not be cut, but that it should be augmented by

Meretz: change law to recognize non-Orthodox conversions

MERETZ MKs have submitted an amendment to the Conversion Law which would recognize conversions carried out in Israel by Reform and Conservative rabbis and not just by Orthodox ones.

LIAT COLLINS

million American Jews who do not belong to Orthodox streams.

into the Knesset's court. Non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad are recognized in Israel, but not those carried out locally.

"Granting such status only to the Orthodox community sends a signal to world Jewry that they are not wanted in Israel and that their standing is inferior to that of the Orthodox," Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said. "There are some three

He said the bill would grant legitimacy and recognition to other streams of Judaism and particularly help to cases involving children adopted abroad by families who do not want to promise to live an Orthodox lifestyle and the more than 100,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union who might not be recognized as Jews.

Jump in alleged abuse by IDF officers

THE number of indictments filed against IDF officers for abusing their men jumped 76 percent this year from 1995, Judge Advocate-General Uri Shoham said at a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday.

EVELYN GORDON

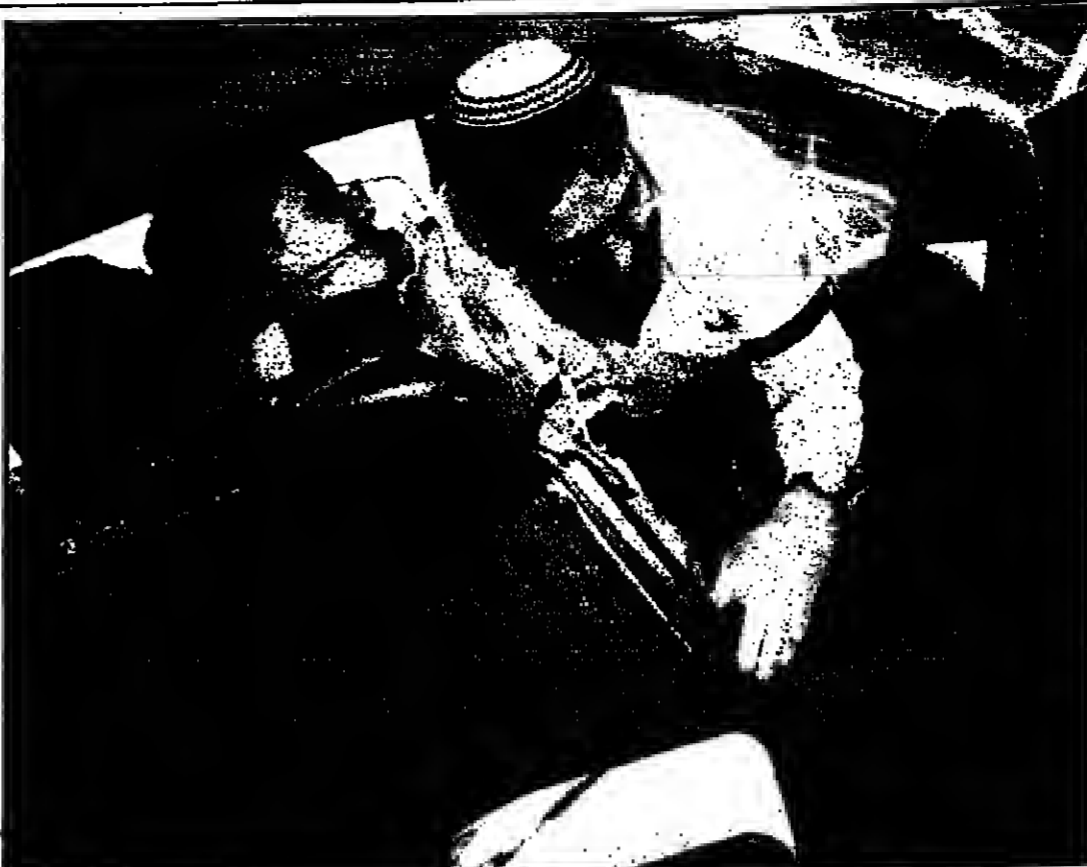
Absenteeism accounts for almost two-thirds of the total indictments filed.

The other category to show a rise was indictments for thefts from other soldiers, up 23%, to 108. In contrast, indictments for the theft of IDF property fell 27%, to 45, and those for illegal use of weapons dropped 10%, to 155.

In total, some 3,384 indictments were filed this year, an increase of 15% over 1995, Shoham said.

Shoham said there was also a sharp increase in the number of disciplinary verdicts overturned or amended by his office because of a serious flaw. 463 such verdicts were cancelled entirely, up 175% compared to 1995 and 827% compared to 1994. Another 5,456 were amended in some fashion. In total, 5,919 complaints about disciplinary hearings were found to be justified, up from 4,370 in 1995 and 2,537 in 1994. This is only a fraction of the 200,000 complaints a year that are filed, but it still shows an increase in the level of irregularity, Shoham said.

Shoham also noted the increasing number of petitions to the High Court of Justice which are filed against criminal proceedings in the army.



A medical worker demonstrates the latest rescue and recovery equipment on display at a safety convention that opened at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds yesterday. (Gil Hadani)

IDF mulls bill to cut reserve duty, boost combat pay

EVELYN GORDON

THE IDF is preparing a bill to both reduce the maximum yearly reserve duty and provide extra compensation for combat reservists.

Judge Advocate-General Uri Shoham said at a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday.

Shoham said he hopes the bill will be presented to the Knesset sometime in 1997.

"The ceiling [for annual reserve duty] will be much lower," he said. Deputy Judge Advocate-General Yossi Tel-Raz said the bill might also reduce the age at which men become exempt from reserve combat duty, which is currently 45. Regarding compensation for combat reservists, Tel-Raz said the IDF was looking into a variety of alternatives, ranging from an additional monthly payment to a tax deduction.

Another bill which the IDF has recently completed work on would bar material gathered during the investigation of accidental deaths from being used as evidence in a criminal trial, Shoham said. This bill, which Shoham said he con-

sidered of paramount importance, has already been submitted to the government.

"The main purpose of an investigation isn't to indict and punish the soldiers, but to learn the necessary lessons [to prevent a recurrence]," Shoham explained. Therefore, it is important that soldiers not be afraid to tell the truth for fear it might later be used against them in court, he said.

The bill would also restrict who is entitled to see the reports of such investigations. Instead of such reports going almost automatically to the military police, they will go first to Shoham's office. Only if the judge advocate-general decides a criminal investigation is warranted would the report be sent on to the military police to serve as a basis for their investigation.

A summary of the report would be sent to the bereaved family.

Shoham said Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair has given the bill his blessing, but he expects opposition in the Knesset.

Tarif to PM: Stay out of Knesset affairs

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif yesterday accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of intervening in Knesset affairs, by ordering a delay in the Knesset vote on its representative to the Druse religious judge selection committee.

Tarif is Labor's candidate for a place on the committee, while his main rival for the post is former Likud MK Assad Assad, who is also the prime minister's adviser on Druse affairs.

Assad asked Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to allow him to be elected on the Knesset's behalf as there is only one Druse MK. When Ben-Yair rejected the appeal, he obtained an interim injunction from the High Court of Justice.

A large group of Tarif's supporters came to the Knesset yesterday to observe the vote, and stormed Tichon's office when they heard it had been postponed.

Tichon said he only postponed the vote by a day. He said he had not asked Netanyahu for a reason for the postponement but acceded - just as he agreed to a Labor request to postpone a discussion on Syrian relations.

WEATHER

Golan	6-15
Heifa	11-22
Tharbia	8-23
Afula	8-22
Samaria	8-17
Tel Aviv	11-22
Jerusalem	6-16
Beersheba	7-22
Dead Sea	12-24
Eilat	10-25

Forecast: Clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	05	07	cloudy
Berlin	05	07	cloudy
Buenos Aires	19	28	clear
Calcutta	23	32	cloudy
Chicago	03	08	cloudy
Copenhagen	05	08	cloudy
Frankfurt	05	07	cloudy
Geneva	05	07	cloudy
Hamburg	05	07	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	29	clear
Jakarta	25	32	cloudy
London	05	07	cloudy
Los Angeles	11	18	clear
Moscow	03	08	cloudy
Madrid	05	08	cloudy
Mumbai	25	32	cloudy
New York	05	07	cloudy
Paris	05	07	cloudy
Rome	05	07	cloudy
Sydney	17	24	clear
Tokyo	05	07	cloudy
Toronto	05	07	cloudy
Vienna	05	07	cloudy
Zurich	05	07	cloudy

Construction executives bailed in bribery case

RAINE MARGUS

AVI Dudai, a former aide to Ariel Sharon, and his business partner, Nahum Por, were released on bail yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court after being arrested for bribing a government employee.

Dudai and Por, partners in the Danhouse construction company, are suspected of bribing the deputy managing director of Lurim, a government company.

According to the allegations, Lurim deputy manager, Yafit Rotem, was given a \$100,000 discount on a home in Lapid, near Modi'in.

KNESSET BRIEFS

Poraz calls for vaccination funds

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz) has sent an urgent letter to Agriculture Minister Raphael Eitan asking him to find the resources to allow the Veterinary Services to finish its research and start implementing a program of oral vaccinations against rabies in wild animals. Poraz, who has sponsored two major animal protection laws in the past, said the program would be an alternative to poisoning animals as well as help prevent the spread of the disease.

Liav Collins

Knesset budget approved

The Knesset House Committee

and Finance Committee approved the budget for the Knesset itself yesterday at NIS 167,880,000, up 28% on the 1996 budget.

The increase stemmed, among other things, from the adoption of the Rozen-Tzvi Committee recommendations raising the salaries of MKs by 33% in return for banning them from moonlighting and granting them an additional parliamentary aide.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said that in the spirit of the budget cuts being demanded of government ministries, he has cut NIS 2 million from the Knesset's budget and put it in reserve.

NIS 500,000 had been allocated for building extensions. Liav Collins

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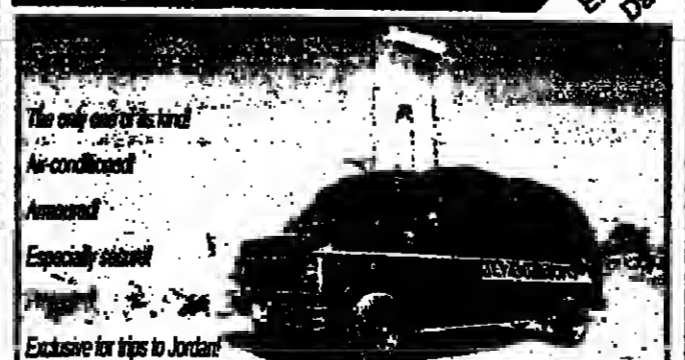
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